



Congress invokes powers to challenge Trump on war in Yemen

By SUSANNAH GEORGE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rejecting a plank of President Donald Trump's foreign policy, the House on Thursday invoked never-before-used powers to demand that his administration withdraw support from the Saudi-led war in Yemen. The Senate passed the same resolution in March with bipartisan support.

Trump is expected to issue a veto of the measure, his second as president, and Congress does not have the votes to override him. But the action was nonetheless a milestone for lawmakers, who have shown a renewed willingness to assert their war-making powers after letting them atrophy for decades under presidents from both parties. "The president will have to face the reality that Congress is no longer going to ignore its constitutional obligations when it comes to foreign policy," said Democratic Rep. Eliot Engel of New York, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.



From left, Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., Rep. Ro Khanna, D-Calif., and House Rules Committee Chair James McGovern, D-Mass., speak to reporters after the House voted to end American involvement in the Yemen war, rebuffing the Trump administration's support for the Saudi-led military campaign, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, April 4, 2019, though President Trump is expected to veto it.

Yemen was plunged into a civil war in September 2014, when rebels known as Houthis swept into the capital and overthrew the

country's internationally recognized government. The Saudi-led coalition began fighting the rebels months later in a campaign

that Saudi Arabia said was aimed at curbing Iranian influence. At the time, the Houthis were allied with forces backed by Iran; in

the years that followed, Iran's role in the conflict has grown.

Associated Press

Continued on Page 2



Sharing Menu \$50 per couple



2 appetizers



1 Main dish



1 Dessert

J.E. Irausquin Blvd 64 - Eagle Beach, Aruba - www.asiesmiperuenaruba.com - Closed Mon
Info: + 297 525 4000 (Ext 172) / 588 3958 - reservations@asiesmiperuenaruba.com



Craving
a Good
Steak?



One pound of Natural grass-Fed Beef from the Argentinean Pampas,
Grilled to perfection by our Master Chefs over a real Charcoal Fire...
Juicy, Lean and full of Flavor.

It's time for **El Gaucho** Steak



Closed on Sundays

Open Monday through Saturday from 11:30am till 11pm. For reservations call 582-3677
Lunch and Early Bird specials available till 5pm. Happy Hour from 5-7pm

Congress invokes powers to challenge Trump on war in Yemen

Continued from Front

The conflict has been a bloody stalemate for years. Thousands have been killed in Saudi airstrikes on civilian infrastructure, and millions are on the brink of starvation.

The war has devastated the economy of Yemen, the Arab world's poorest country. The vast majority of the population cannot afford food to eat.

Two lawmakers who have led the charge for the war powers resolution, Sens. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., and Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., have displayed photos of emaciated Yemeni children when they have given speeches on the Senate floor.

"This is a moral stain on this nation, every day that we continue to take part in this war," Murphy said after Thursday's vote.

Utah Sen. Mike Lee, a Republican who championed the measure, said it "is long past time that we end U.S. involvement in this unauthorized, unjustified, and immoral war that has

caused immense human suffering."

While the U.S. has trained

administration, with intelligence sharing, logistical support and inflight refueling. The

cut UN-led peace negotiations at a critical point, and embolden Iran to increase

tion agreements with more than 100 countries."

Debate over U.S. support to the military campaign flared late last year after the killing of U.S.-based journalist Jamal Khashoggi by agents of the kingdom. Lawmakers from both parties said Trump had not condemned Saudi Arabia strongly enough, citing the president's apparent dismissal of assessments from U.S. intelligence agencies that the Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman ordered the killing.

A resolution to withdraw U.S. support from the war passed the Senate in December, and was revived this year after Democrats took the House majority.

Final passage Thursday came despite a procedural gambit from House Republicans related to support for Israel, an issue that has been a point of tension for Democrats in recent months.

GOP leaders proposed adding language condemning the international boycott movement against Israel and efforts to delegitimize the country.

Democrats called the amendment a ploy to kill the Yemen resolution and rallied against it.

"This is about politics, this is about trying to drive a wedge into this caucus where it does not belong," said Rep. Ted Deutch, D-Fla., to applause from Democrats.

As the resolution headed to the White House, supporters in both parties made a final plea for Trump to sign it. A letter signed by Lee, Sanders, Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., and members of the House cited Trump's desire to avoid "costly and never-ending conflicts across the globe."

By signing the resolution, the lawmakers wrote, the president could "set a new precedent" and take on "entrenched opposition to foreign-policy restraint."

Asked about the resolution late Thursday, Trump was noncommittal.

"I'll take a look at it," he told reporters at the White House. □



In this Feb. 13, 2019 file photo, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Rep. Eliot Engel D-N.Y., left, speaks with Ranking member Rep. Michael McCaul, R-Texas during the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing in Washington.

Associated Press

Saudi soldiers and sold the kingdom arms for decades, direct support to the Saudi coalition began in 2015, during the Obama admin-

Pentagon ordered an end to inflight refueling last November.

Support for the coalition carried over into the Trump administration, which has made Saudi Arabia a central ally in efforts to disengage from the Middle East and take a hard line on Iran.

On his first international trip as president, Trump visited Riyadh, where he emphasized business ties between the two countries. Home to key American military bases, Saudi Arabia also remains one of the top buyers of American arms and Trump has made it a priority to loosen weapons export controls.

As it has done in the past, his administration on Thursday defended the alliance with Saudi Arabia as a foreign policy imperative. Navy Cmdr. Rebecca Rebarich, a Pentagon spokeswoman, warned that curtailing U.S. military support could make the country's problems worse.

"New restrictions on the limited U.S. military support could still increase civilian casualties, jeopardize cooperation with our partners on counterterrorism, under-

its support to the Houthis which raises the risk for regional conflict," Rebarich said. "We need to continue to work with our partners to minimize civilian casualties and expand urgent humanitarian efforts throughout Yemen."

The White House statement threatening a veto said the bill raises "serious constitutional concerns." It also argued U.S. support for the Saudis coalition does not constitute engaging in "hostilities," meaning the War Powers Act doesn't apply.

Those arguments were echoed by House Republicans.

Rep. Michael McCaul of Texas, the top Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said the measure "does nothing to address the humanitarian crisis in Yemen" and argued the lawmakers were abusing the authority under the War Powers Resolution, which was enacted in 1973.

"This radical interpretation has implications far beyond Saudi Arabia," McCaul said. He warned that the measure could "disrupt U.S. security coopera-

pureocean
DIVI ARUBA PHOENIX

5th April

The Sense
Taste life

- ENJOY LIVE MUSIC UNDER THE STARS -

Unlimited bites
Cigars | Macallan 12 years | Hodgson Wine | Jefferson's
| Diplomatico

PRICE: \$30
DRESSCODE: Business Casual
TIME: 6:00 PM - 10 PM

ARUBA'S MOST **REWARDING** CASINO EXPERIENCE**MARRIOTT BONVOY MEMBERS
EXCLUSIVE OFFER****GET AUTOMATICALLY UPGRADED**

Receive a complimentary upgrade to Classic Premium Tier Level

PLAY MORE. EARN MORE. ENJOY MORE.**One (1) complimentary ticket for the Super Car 2019 drawing**

FIRST \$50 on US offer

2 x Ticket Multiplier

Accelerated Food & Beverage comps

Complimentary Valet Parking

Visit the VIP Desk at The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba
or call 527-2276/77.**MARRIOTT
BONVOY™****THE CASINO
AT THE RITZ-CARLTON, ARUBA****WIN!
A SUPER CAR****THE CASINO AT
THE RITZ-CARLTON**

Feds support tribe's push for only whale hunt in mainland U.S.

**By SALLY HO
Associated Press****SEATTLE (AP)** — Federal officials are supporting a decades

long request by a Native American tribe in Washington state to resume what would be the only authorized whale hunts in the mainland U.S., a long-held custom that animal rights activists oppose as outdated and cruel. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Thursday announced its proposal to allow the Makah tribe to hunt one to three Eastern North Pacific gray whales annually over a 10-year period off the Washington coast. Tribes in Alaska and other parts of the world legally hunt whales, which they rely on for food.

The move marks the strongest federal support that the Makah tribe has received, though it still faces a court hearing in August. A judge will make a recom-

mendation back to NOAA Fisheries for a final decision. If approved, the tribe can then apply for permits and hunts could begin as early as next year.

The tribe, based about 120 miles (193 kilometers) northwest of Seattle along the Olympic Peninsula, has historically hunted whales and harvested those that wash ashore. It's a centuries-old tradition for the Makah people, who say it's a cultural, spiritual and subsistence need that's been limited for nearly 100 years. Makah Tribal Councilman Patrick DePoe said the vast majority of the 2,800 members — including 1,100 who still live in the area — want to return to their native diet by reintroducing whale meat and blubber.

"This is laying out a path of healing for my community and is going to be healing for future generations," DePoe said.

Animal welfare and other

groups have spent 20 years fighting in court to stop their hunts. In 2004, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said the tribe could not obtain a waiver under the Marine Mammal Protection Act until an environmental assessment was done.

DJ Schubert, a wildlife biologist with the Animal Welfare Institute, said the tribe should not depend on whales for food and urged the tribe to consider other options, such as operating whale watching tours to generate revenue.

"The Makah have no nutritional subsistence need. Without gray whales, they've survived quite well for 90 years," Schubert said. Though the Makah are guaranteed whaling rights under their 1855 treaty with the U.S., they stopped hunting voluntarily in the 1920s after commercial whaling decimated gray whales. The tribe sought to resume hunts after the species was



In this Aug. 20, 1998 file photo, Makah Indians paddle away from the rising sun as they head from Neah Bay toward open Pacific Ocean waters during a practice paddle ahead of its first whale hunt in 70 years.

Associated Press

removed from the federal endangered species list in 1994. NOAA spokesman Michael Milstein said its most recent study in 2014 suggested that more than 600 Eastern North Pacific gray whales could be removed each year without affecting the animal's long-term sustainability. There are now about 27,000 of the whales, he said.

"This gray whale population at this point is very healthy and fully recovered and

probably as large as it's ever been," Milstein said. Milstein said authorities would monitor the hunts and the animal's numbers. If approved, the permits would restrict when and how many hunts can take place to minimize the risks to other whales known to migrate to the area. That includes the Western North Pacific gray whale, which is endangered, and the Pacific Coast feeding group. □

White House pushes back on request for Trump tax forms

By **MARCY GORDON**

AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House said Thursday that Democratic efforts to obtain President Donald Trump's tax records are "political games."

A House committee chairman formally asked the IRS Wednesday to provide six years of Trump's personal tax returns and the returns for some of his businesses as Democrats try to shed light on his complex financial dealings and potential conflicts of interest.

The request by Massachusetts Rep. Richard Neal, who heads the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee, is the first such demand for a sitting president's tax information in 45 years. The unprecedented move is likely to set off a huge legal battle between Democrats controlling the House and the Trump administration.

Neal made the request Wednesday in a letter to IRS Commissioner Charles Rettig, asking for Trump's personal and business returns for 2013 through 2018. He



White House press secretary Sarah Sanders talks with reporters outside the White House, Thursday, April 4, 2019, in Washington.

asked for the documents in seven days, setting an April 10 deadline.

Trump told reporters Wednesday he "would not be inclined" to provide his tax returns to the committee. White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said Thursday morning that the White House "is not interested in playing a bunch

of political games like the Democrats in Congress clearly want to spend their time doing."

Asked again later Thursday for his response to Neal's demand, Trump didn't provide a direct answer.

"They'll speak to my lawyers; they'll speak to the attorney general," Trump said at the White House, re-

ferring to Attorney General William Barr, whom he appointed.

Justice Department spokeswoman Kerri Kupec declined to comment.

An IRS spokesman said the agency had no comment on Neal's request.

Democrats insist that obtaining Trump's tax filings falls within their mandate of congressional oversight. Republicans have denounced it as a political witch hunt and invoked privacy concerns.

"We have completed the necessary groundwork for a request of this magnitude, and I am certain we are within our legitimate legislative, legal and oversight rights," Neal said in a statement Wednesday evening.

Rep. Kevin Brady of Texas, the senior Republican on the Ways and Means panel, denounced the move as "an abuse of the tax-writing committees' statutory authority."

"Weaponizing our nation's tax code by targeting political foes sets a dangerous precedent and weakens Americans' privacy rights," Brady wrote in a letter Wednesday to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, who oversees the IRS. "As you know, by law all Americans have a fundamental right to the privacy of the personal information found

in their tax returns." Louisiana Rep. Steve Scalise, the No. 2 House GOP leader, said "a lot of Americans are shocked" that Congress can review tax returns, "whether it's a blue collar worker or president of the United States."

The legal battle set to ensue could take years to resolve, possibly stretching beyond the 2020 presidential election.

Trump broke with decades of tradition for presidential candidates by refusing to release his income tax filings during his 2016 campaign. He has said he won't release them because he is being audited, even though IRS officials have said taxpayers under audit are free to release their returns. Trump claimed at a news conference following the November election that the filings are too complex for people to understand.

The IRS has a policy of auditing the tax returns of all sitting presidents and vice presidents, "yet little is known about the effectiveness of this program," Neal said in the statement. "On behalf of the American people, the Ways and Means Committee must determine if that policy is being followed, and if so, whether these audits are conducted fully and appropriately."

Neal continued, "In order to fairly make that determination, we must obtain President Trump's tax returns and review whether the IRS is carrying out its responsibilities."

Neal is one of only three congressional officials authorized to make a written request to the Treasury secretary for anyone's tax returns. The Internal Revenue Service is part of the Treasury Department. A rarely used 1924 law says the Treasury chief "shall furnish" the requested material to members of the Ways and Means Committee for them to examine behind closed doors.

A spokesman for Mnuchin didn't respond to requests for comment. □

50% Already Sold



HARBOUR HOUSE
Aruba

The New Downtown Living
Get your Own Ocean Front Condo

Weststraat 2, Oranjestad, Aruba
www.harbourhousearuba.com

(+297) 594 6395 / 582 0039
sales@harbourhousearuba.com

ONLINE GROCERY DELIVERY SERVICE*From the Store to your Door!***\$10 OFF**
Coupon code:
ARUBATODAY**SAVE TIME
GROCERY SHOP
ONLINE****www.GroceriesToGoAruba.com****Mormons ease opposition to same-sex couples and their kids****By BRADY McCOMBS and
LINDSAY WHITEHURST
Associated Press**

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on Thursday repealed rules that banned baptisms for children of gay parents and that labeled same-sex couples as sinners eligible for expulsion — marking a reversal of policies condemned as jarring detours from a push by the faith to be more compassionate about LGBTQ issues.

LGBTQ church members and groups that support them expressed relief about what they called an important step forward for the faith. However, they also said they were angry about the harm the 2015 policies had caused and the lack of an apology by church leaders.

In a statement posted online, church leaders described the changes as “very positive policies” that should help “affected families.” The faith’s highest leadership group, known as the First Presidency, made the decision after “fervent, united prayer to understand the will of the Lord on these matters,” the statement said.

The faith widely known as the Mormon church said it is not changing its doctrinal opposition to gay marriage and still considers same-sex relationships to be a “serious transgression.”

“We want to reduce the hate and contention so common today,” the statement said.

The rules approved by global church leaders in 2015 had prohibited baptisms for children living with gay parents until the children turned 18 and disavowed same-sex relationships.

With the change, children

of gay parents can now be baptized as long as their parents approve the baptisms and acknowledge that the children will be taught church doctrine.

People in same-sex relationships will no longer be considered “apostates,” a term the religion uses for people who teach inaccurate doctrine or publicly defy guidance from church leaders. Apostates can be kicked out of the religion.

That label was widely condemned by LGBTQ members and allies as being demeaning and hurtful to people who already struggle to find acceptance in the faith.

“It was a stigma. It was like wearing a Scarlet letter,” said Nathan Kitchen, a gay Mormon father of five children from Gilbert, Arizona. “You are cut off, you are a pariah.”

Kitchen said he cried when he heard the news about the new policies. Kitchen, also the president of an organization called Affirmation that supports LGBTQ church members, said the old policies had fueled painful custody battles as straight parents tried to ensure their children could be full members of the faith.

Wendy Montgomery, an Arizona mother of a gay son, said she’s pleased the rules have been changed but believes the harm caused by the previous policies can’t be undone. The lifelong church member left the religion after the 2015 policy was instituted.

“It deeply wounded and traumatized every single LGBTQ Mormon that I know,” said Montgomery, a member of a mothers group called “Mama Dragons” that advocates for parents with LGBTQ mem-



In this Nov. 14, 2015 file photo, Sandy Newcomb poses for a photograph with a rainbow flag as people gather for a mass resignation from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake City.

Associated Press

bers of the faith.

The announcement came two days before Saturday’s twice-yearly church conference in Salt Lake City. It was unclear if church leaders will speak more about the changes during speeches at the conference.

Erika Munson, co-founder of the Mormons Building Bridges LGBTQ advocacy

group, said there’s a “great feeling of being heard” because the changes came after an outcry from church members.

“We saw the church correct a mistake in record time,” Munson said. “Usually these things take maybe 100 years or more.”

The move undoes the one major detour from a decade-long path by the

faith toward more compassion on LGBTQ issues while sticking to doctrinal opposition of intimacy between people in same-sex relationships, said Patrick Mason, a religion professor at Claremont Graduate University in California who studies the faith.

“That policy always seemed out of step,” Mason said.

Membership growth in the religion has stagnated in recent years, and young members opposed the policies at much higher rates than older members, said Jana Riess, who surveyed members of the religion for her book, “The Next Mormons: How Millennials Are Changing the LDS Church.” Faith leaders had previously explained that the 2015 rules were designed to protect children by not putting them in a potential tug-of-war between the beliefs of same-sex couples raising them and teachings and activities at church. □

FARMERS MARKET

April 7th from 10:00 - 2:00 pm

**DELICIOUS FOOD AND
UNIQUE CRAFT & ARTS****AT THE OSTRICH FARM**

Colleges' message to ease student stress: Failure is normal

By **COLLIN BINKLEY**
AP Education Writer

WALTHAM, Mass. (AP) —

Bentley University has plenty of success stories among its faculty and alumni. But one recent evening, the school invited students to hear about the failures.

Speaking to a crowded auditorium, one professor recounted the time he sank a \$21 million company. Another recalled failing her college statistics course. One graduate described his past struggles with drug addiction. Each story reinforced the same message: Even successful people sometimes fail.

"Failure is normal. It's healthy. And I think people on this panel would argue it actually is transformative," Peter Forkner, director of Bentley's counseling center, told students. "If you're not failing, it probably means that you're not taking enough risks."

Bentley, a private business school near Boston, joins a growing number of U.S. colleges trying to ease students' anxieties around failure and teach them to cope with it. On many campuses, it's meant to combat climbing rates of stress, depression and other problems that have been blamed on reduced resilience or grit among younger generations.

Across the country, campus mental health officials report today's students appear to have a harder time bouncing back from adversity. Counseling centers have seen surging demand, often from students overwhelmed by everyday stresses. Professors have raised concerns about students' fragility when it comes to receiving bad grades.

"Anxiety is rising like crazy," said Nance Roy, a psychologist who works with colleges through the Jed Foundation, a nonprofit mental health group. "For many students, it's the first time they're navigating independently away from home, and if they also don't have basic life skills, it's sort of a perfect storm." Colleges have responded



In this March 5, 2019 photo, panel members, from left, Angela Giordano, Natalie Baucum, Mike Duggan, Fred Ledley and school counselor Peter Forkner participate in an event at Bentley University, in Waltham, Mass., where professors and alumni shared some of their worst setbacks to illustrate that even successful people sometimes fail.

with an array of programs meant to boost resilience and help students catch up on life skills.

The University of California, Los Angeles, offers "grit coaching." The University of Minnesota recently hosted a "resilience resource fair." Dozens of schools now provide "Adulting 101" workshops covering topics from finance to romance. As part of that work, more schools are also striving to normalize failure and create an environment where students can take risks and learn from setbacks.

Stanford University encourages its students to celebrate their failures through song, poetry and other creative outlets at an annual event called "Stanford, I Screwed Up!" Smith College in Massachusetts and the University of Central Arkansas have both issued students "certificates of failure" as part of broader programs on the topic. Colorado State University invites students to take a pledge to embrace failure and persist through it.

When it comes to grades,

Cornell College in Iowa is warning professors that they shouldn't soften their scoring for the sake of students' emotions. A directive on the issue notes that "a grade of a C or below is not the end of the world." "Normalize failure. It's part of life. It's one way we learn," the message says. "Sometimes students need to fail, and not be given an undeserved grade by a sympathetic faculty member."

Others, like Bentley, are highlighting the failures of successful people. Harvard University has a website sharing rejection letters received by faculty, staff and alumni.

Experts propose a variety of theories to explain why today's students might be struggling. Some say the pressure to succeed is stronger than ever, making even small failures seem disastrous. Some say social media floods students with images of perfection that make them feel bad about their own lives. Others blame parents who tightly manage their chil-

dren's lives and shield them from failure — a tendency taken to the extreme in the college admissions bribery scandal, in which dozens of parents were charged last month with paying bribes to help their children get into top schools.

A 2018 survey by the American College Health Association found that 22% of college students were diagnosed with anxiety or treated for it over the past year, up from 10% a decade before. The rate for depression rose from 10% to 17% in the same span, the survey found.

Efforts to tackle campus mental health have sometimes been met by sneers. On social media, some observers mock a generation of fragile "snowflakes" who need "safe spaces" and "trigger warnings." But mental health advocates counter that today's students are grappling with a host of pressures that past generations didn't, from social media to the threat of school violence.

"There's this temptation to judge or criticize today's

youth," said Laura Horne, program director at Active Minds, a college mental health group. "They're just responding to a different and more challenging landscape with the resources we've given them." At Bentley, along with hosting events on failure, officials have launched a "Failure Friday" series on social media that shares a different story of failure from someone on campus each week.

Lea Guldmond, a junior who attended the event on professors' failures, said she welcomes the conversations about anxiety and struggle. Especially at a business school, she said, students face constant stress to compete for the best grades, the best internships and the best jobs. "We're under a lot of pressure and I think we're stressed all the time," said Guldmond, 21, of West Newbury, Massachusetts. "It's nice to be able to talk about it and know that you're not alone when you fail. Everyone deals with it." □

Associated Press

FBI rejects teen's claim to be long-missing boy

By **DAN SEWELL** and **DON BABWIN**

Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) — A young man's claim to be an Illinois boy who disappeared under tragic circumstances eight years ago was disproved by DNA tests and pronounced a hoax Thursday, dashing hopes that the baffling case had finally been solved. For a day and a half, a breakthrough seemed to be at hand when a young man found wandering the streets of Newport, Kentucky, on Wednesday identified himself as 14-year-old Timothy Pitzen. He told police he had just escaped from two men who had held him captive for seven years.

Timothy disappeared in 2011 at age 6, apparently sent into hiding by his mother just before she took her own life. When the young man told his story, Timothy's family was cautiously hopeful, as were neighbors and others who have long wondered whether he is dead or alive. But the FBI said Thursday afternoon that DNA tests determined the young man was not Timothy.

Newport Police Chief Tom Collins identified him to ABC as Brian Rini of Medina, Ohio, a 23-year-old ex-convict. He was released from an Ohio prison less than a month ago after serving more than a year for burglary and vandalism. Authorities did not say whether Rini would face charges or what his motive was.

"Law enforcement has not and will not forget Timothy, and we hope to one day reunite him with his family. Unfortunately, that day will not be today," FBI spokesman Timothy Beam said in a statement.

Aurora police Sgt. Bill Rowley said that over the years his department has received thousands of tips about Timothy, including false sightings.

"We're always worried about copycats, especially

something that has a big national attention like this," he said.

Timothy's family members said they were heartbroken at the latest twist.

"It's devastating. It's like reliving that day all over again, and Timothy's father is devastated once again," said his aunt Kara Jacobs.

The boy's grandmother Alana Anderson said: "It's been awful. We've been on tenterhooks, hopeful and frightened. It's just been exhausting." She added, "I feel so sorry for the young man who's obviously had a horrible time and felt the need to say he was somebody else."

Timothy, of Aurora, Illinois, vanished after his mother, Amy Fry-Pitzen, pulled him out of kindergarten early one day, took him on a two-day road trip to the zoo and a water park, and then killed herself at a hotel. She left a note saying that her son was safe with people who would love and care for him, and added: "You will never find him." Police have said Timothy's mother might have dropped the boy off with a friend, noting that the boy's car seat and Spider-Man backpack were gone. Timothy's grandmother said her daughter had fought depression for years and was having problems in her marriage to Timothy's father. News reports suggested she was afraid she would lose custody of the boy in a divorce because of her mental instability.

At Greenman Elementary after the boy's disappearance, Timothy's schoolmates, teachers and parents tied hundreds of yellow ribbons around trees and signs. A garden was planted in his memory.

The brief but tantalizing possibility that the case had been solved generated excitement in Timothy's former neighborhood.

Pedro Melendez, who lives in Timothy's former home, didn't know the boy but saved the concrete slab

with his name, handprint and footprint etched in it when he redid the back patio. It is dated '09.

Linda Ramirez, who lives nearby and knew the family, said she was "pretty excited" but didn't "want to have false hopes." □



A slab of concrete sits in the backyard of the house where Timothy Pitzen used to live in Aurora, Illinois, Thursday, April, 2019.

Associated Press

**FIND YOUR
WINNING MOMENT.®**

OPEN 24 HOURS
Slot Machines & Table Games

WIND CREEK®
CRYSTAL CASINO

Glaring US absences raise questions about relevance of G-7



U.S. Homeland Security official Claire Grady, left, is welcomed by French Interior Minister Christophe Castaner for a G7 meeting at ministerial level in Paris, Thursday April 4, 2019.

By **THOMAS ADAMSON**
SYLVIE CORBET

Associated Press

PARIS (AP)—Two key American officials — U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen — are skipping meetings in France this week as the

Group of Seven countries gather to try to find solutions to world security challenges.

The move raises questions about the G-7's effectiveness at solving some of the international issues it has deemed crucial, including fighting terrorism and hu-

man trafficking. A lunch focusing on migra-

tion issues and human trafficking kicked off the G-7 interior ministers' meetings Thursday in Paris. France, which took over the G-7's presidency in January, is hosting the two-day meeting, which overlaps with a summit of G-7 foreign ministers Friday and Saturday in the French Atlantic resort of Dinard.

U.S. President Donald Trump has made no secret of his disdain for the G-7, especially since Russia was pushed out of the gathering of major world economies after its annexation of Crimea in 2014. In addition to the U.S., the G-7 includes France, Canada, Japan, Germany, Italy and the U.K. Pompeo is in Washington this week, far from French shores, hosting NATO's foreign ministers to mark the alliance's 70th anniversary. Nielsen is staying behind to

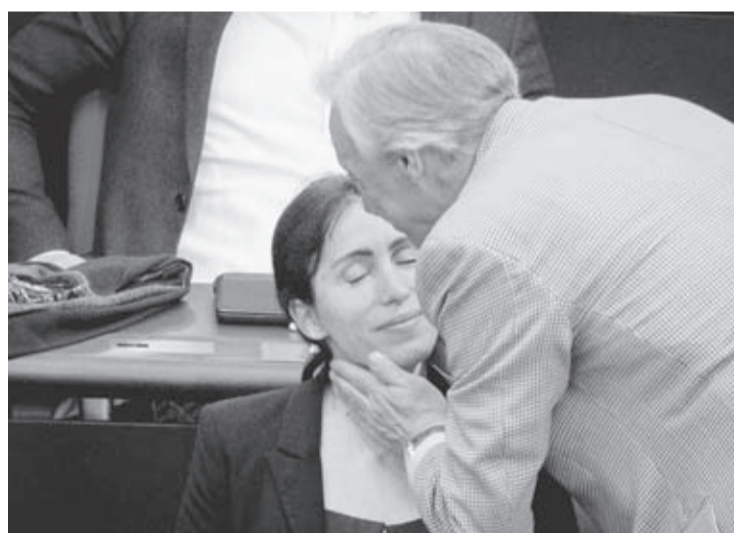
deal with domestic border issues. Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland, meanwhile, announced she is attending both the NATO meeting in Washington and the G-7 summit in Dinard.

Still, alliances are fraying everywhere, even at NATO as Pompeo shines a spotlight on America's involvement in the military alliance. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg acknowledged internal NATO disagreements this week on trade, climate change and the Iran nuclear deal, but insisted the 29 allies are united in their commitment to defend each other.

U.S. Homeland Security official Claire Grady is standing in for Nielsen at the interior ministers' meetings and Deputy Secretary of State John J. Sullivan will stand in for Pompeo. □

Associated Press

German lawmakers reject far-right deputy speaker candidate



Lawmaker Armin-Paul Hampel, right, comforts Mariana Harder-Kuehnel during a meeting of the German federal parliament, Bundestag, at the Reichstag building in Berlin, Germany, April 4, 2019.

Associated Press

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — German lawmakers rejected Thursday for the third time the far-right Alternative for Germany's proposed candidate for deputy speaker of parliament, a posting that would have bolstered its influence and respectability. It is customary for each party in the Bundestag to have a deputy alongside speaker Wolfgang Schaeuble, a veteran conservative law-

maker. Alternative for Germany, which is known by its German acronym of AfD, has insisted it has the right to name a deputy since it's the biggest opposition party in the current parliament. The party's candidate, Mariana Harder-Kuehnel, received 199 votes in favor and 423 votes against in a secret ballot. The 44-year-old would have required only a simple majority, following two previous rounds

of voting in which an absolute majority of the 709 lawmakers in parliament was necessary. Several prominent lawmakers from other parties said ahead of the vote that they planned to back her, arguing that AfD shouldn't be given the chance to portray themselves as martyrs. In spite of her defeat, Harder-Kuehnel received more than twice the number of votes as her party has lawmakers in parliament. Her colleague Albrecht Glaser, who was first nominated by AfD in 2017, was also rejected three times after suggesting that freedom of religion shouldn't apply to Islam.

Ahead of the vote, Harder-Kuehnel had sought to present herself as a moderate voice in her party. A lawyer by training, she has advocated conservative Christian family values. However, Hamburg-based weekly Der Spiegel has reported that Harder-Kuehnel also has ties to an ultranationalist wing of her party that has caught the attention of security agencies. □



WACKY WAHOO'S

PALM BEACH #33-A WWW.WACKYWAHOOS.COM

STEAK. SEAFOOD. B.B.Q. & FUN!

Ex-Hadicurari BBQ & Grill with the same owner's.
We do our own daily fishing so we serve the freshest seafood on the Island.

**Very reasonable price, exciting menu and
NO SERVICE CHARGE**

Dinner from 5:30 - 10:00
Monday - Saturday



FRESH CATCH & SEAFOOD
We are located close to the High-rise hotel's at walking distance.
RESERVATION SUGGESTED

TEL: 586-7333





FROM THE BEACH BBQ

BEEF \$28
CHICKEN \$25
SHRIMP \$28

BEACH SEATING

PINCHOS
Moomba style
DAILY 6PM - 10PM

Choose between a **10oz beef pincho**, a **10oz chicken pincho** or a **jumbo shrimp pincho**. Each comes with onions, bell peppers and mushrooms. Served with French fries, a garden salad, a BBQ sauce, a garlic sauce and a home-made chimichurri.

starting at **\$25**

MOOMBA BEACH
BAR & RESTAURANT

Located on the beach between Holiday Inn and Marriott's Surf Club, Palm Beach
T: +297 586 5365 - E: moombabeach@arubawineanddine.com - www.moombabeach.com

ARUBA WINE & DINE

Aid ship with 64 migrants stuck in Mediterranean Sea

By VANESSA GERA
PAOLO SANTALUCIA
Associated Press

ROME (AP) — A humanitarian aid ship carrying 64 rescued migrants was stuck in the Mediterranean Sea on Thursday as both Italy and Malta refused it safe harbor, leaving the migrants sleeping in cramped conditions on deck as a storm approached.

Their refusal sets the stage for another Mediterranean migrant standoff that can only be resolved if some European Union members agree to accept the asylum-seekers.

Carlotta Weibl, spokeswoman for the German humanitarian organization Sea-Eye, said the ship was near the Italian island of Lampedusa on Thursday.

"We have no idea yet where we can disembark," Weibl told The Associated Press. "Malta says we can't enter their waters and we



In this April 3, 2019 file photo, migrants on a rubber dinghy are approached by the Sea-Eye rescue ship in Mediterranean waters.

are unlikely to get permission from Italy."

Sea-Eye's ship, the Alan Kurdi, rescued the migrants Wednesday near Libya after Libyan authorities could not be reached. It did so as it was looking for another smuggling boat with 50 migrants that has been missing since Monday and 40 other migrants missing at

sea since last week.

"The chances are low that they are alive," Weibl said. The 64 migrants picked up included an infant and a child, the group said. But Weibl said the ship is far too small for so many people and that people were sleeping outdoors on deck as it began to rain.

Matteo Salvini, Italy's hard-

Associated Press
line interior minister, said that his ministry sent a formal letter on Thursday to the German government telling them the ship cannot dock in Italy and asking them to intervene. He said he also delivered that message in person to a German government minister at a G-7 meeting in France. He said that "since the ship

is German, with a German flag and a German crew ... let them solve the problem."

He repeated his assertion that the ship should be allowed to dock in Hamburg. Weibl said that suggestion was ridiculous.

The German city of Hamburg is not even located on the Mediterranean Sea but on a river leading to the North Sea.

"It's a journey of three to four weeks (to Hamburg). We don't have food and water, so it's completely out of the question," she said.

Similar standoffs in recent months involving rescue ships hoping to reach Italy and Malta were eventually resolved when other EU members agreed to take some of the migrants.

However, many of those people remain stuck in migrant centers in Malta and Italy. □

Romanian leader rejects concerns about legal changes



A woman shouts anti-government slogans as she holds European Union and NATO flags during a protest in Bucharest, Romania, Saturday, March 30, 2019.

Associated Press

By VADIM GHIRDA
Associated Press
BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) —

Romania's prime minister on Thursday rejected calls by ambassadors from 12 countries, including the United States and Germany, to refrain from amending laws on fighting crime and corruption by decree.

According to local reports, Prime Minister Viorica Dancila said ambassadors "do not set the prime minister's agenda in any country" and urged them to "show respect for Romania."

Her Social Democratic government has come under criticism, including from the European Union, for a series of changes to the judiciary that opponents say will

make it harder to prosecute high-level graft. "We urge the Romanian government and all parties involved to take due consideration of this joint statement and to reaffirm Romania's political commitment to defend our shared values," the international diplomats said Wednesday in a Facebook posting on several of the embassies in question.

Dancila's rejection of the request from the Bucharest-based ambassadors came as center-right President Klaus Iohannis announced that a referendum on May 26 would seek to ban the government from amending criminal law by emergency decrees as well as ban those convicted of crimes related to corruption from obtaining pardons or amnesty. □

Libya's Hifter orders forces to march on Tripoli

By RAMI MUSA

Associated Press

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP) —

Libyan army commander Khalifa Hifter on Thursday ordered his forces to march on Tripoli, the capital of the U.N.-backed government, sparking fears of a major showdown with rival militias.

The order to his Libya National Army posted in an audio recording online came as U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres visited the North African country and expressed fears of new confrontations. It put at risk upcoming peace talks brokered by the U.N. aimed at drawing a roadmap for new elections.

Libya split between rival governments in the east and west after descending into chaos following the 2011 NATO-supported uprising that toppled and later killed longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi.

Hifter is allied with the east-based administration at odds with the U.N.-backed government based in Tripoli. Alongside the two rival administrations, mostly Islamic militias wield considerable influence and control large swathes of territory in the vast North African



In this Aug. 14, 2017 file photo, Libyan militia commander General Khalifa Hifter meets with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

nation.

Hifter described his forces' move as a "victorious march" to "shake the lands under the feet of the unjust bunch."

"We are coming Tripoli, we are coming," he said.

Hifter urged his forces to enter the city peacefully and only raise their weapons "in the face of those who seek injustice and prefer confrontation and fighting."

He also urged his forces not to open fire on any civilians or those who are unarmed. "Those who lay down their weapons are safe, and those who raise the white banner are safe," he said. Hifter's message, which was posted on the Facebook page of the army's media office, comes a day after his forces edged closer to Tripoli and took over the town of Gharyan, 50

kilometers (31 miles) from Tripoli without much fighting.

The announcement of an initiative on Tripoli comes days before a U.N.-brokered conference aimed at bridging the gap among Libya's factions to draw a road map for new elections and end the country's split. Guterres is the second U.N. chief to visit Libya since the 2011 uprising that toppled

Gadhafi. Ban Ki-moon visited in October 2014. Libya, the oil-rich North African country, fell in series of civil wars in different towns and cities, where heavily armed militias fought over power and oil.

Guterres urged Libya's warring factions to de-escalate during a press conference in Tripoli shortly after Hifter made his declaration on the Tripoli offensive. He said there is no military solution to Libya's war and that for the sake of the upcoming peace conference this month among Libyan factions, de-escalation is needed.

"There can't be national conference in these circumstances," he said.

Earlier, on Twitter, Guterres said he is "deeply concerned by the military movement taking place in Libya and the risk of confrontation."

"There is no military solution," he said. "Only intra-Libyan dialogue can solve Libyan problems."

In a joint statement, the governments of France, Italy, the United Arab Emirates, the U.K. and the U.S. said they were "deeply concerned" by fighting near Gharyan. □

Saudis open consulate in Iraq in sign of improving ties

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) —

Saudi Arabia on Friday reopened a consulate in Baghdad for the first time in nearly 30 years and announced a \$1 billion aid package for Iraq, a sign of improving ties between the two neighbors whose relations have been uneasy for years.

The consulate, which will issue visas to Iraqis, was opened at a ceremony in Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone, during which Iraq's Foreign Minister Mohamed Alhakim raised a green Saudi flag over the building.

Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman Ahmad Sahhaf said the move was expected to benefit both countries.

"This will reflect positively on



Iraq Foreign Minister Mohamed Alhakim, center right, shakes hands with Saudi Minister of Commerce and Investment, Majid bin Abdullah Al Qasabi, after the opening ceremony of a Saudi Arabia consulate in Baghdad, Iraq, Thursday, April 4, 2019.

Associated Press

pilgrims and investors," he told The Associated Press. He said work was also underway to reopen border crossings between Iraq and its southern neighbor.

Iraq lies on the fault line be-

tween Shiite Iran and the mostly Sunni Arab world, and its relations with the Sunni kingdom have long been troubled. Saudi Arabia cut ties with Iraq when it invaded Kuwait in 1990.

Diplomatic relations were resumed in 2015 when Riyadh sent an ambassador to Baghdad, and improved with the then-Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir's visit in 2017, the first by a Saudi foreign minister since 1990. But consulate services were not resumed and Iraqis applying for visas had to go through the Saudi embassy in Jordan.

Riyadh is now seeking closer ties to Iraq to counter Iran's growing influence in the region and in Iraq in particular, while Baghdad seeks to attract Saudi investments to spur economic growth. Thursday's consulate ceremony came on the second day of a two-day visit by a delegation headed by the Saudi minister of commerce and investment, Majid bin

Abdullah al-Qasabi. The delegation met with Iraq's prime minister, Adel Abdul-Mahdi, and held talks with Iraqi businessmen and senior Iraqi officials meant to boost relations between the two countries.

Al-Qasabi said three more consulates were expected to open in Iraqi cities. He also said Saudi Arabia would provide Iraq with \$1 billion in loans for development projects and a gift from King Salman for a sports stadium to be built south of Baghdad.

Iraq's Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi is visiting Iran on Saturday and plans to visit Saudi Arabia later this month during which a number of trade agreements are expected to be signed. □



Havana Sunset Cruise

 30th Anniversary
 Certificate of Excellence
 2018 Winner

ADULTS US\$50 ONLY FRIDAY CHILDREN (4-12) US\$27.

Salsa music, Cuban snacks, Open bar with Mojitos, learn how to dance salsa & entertainment on board. Time 5:30 till 7:30pm

Snacks: Banana Chips with shredded chicken, pork & chicken cracklings with mojito dip.

Visit us at Casa del Mar, Playa Linda, Holiday Inn Concierge/lobby desk/ beach huts, RIU Hut between Antilla & Palace Hotel on the beach, or at our own Pelican Pier located between the Holiday Inn & Playa Linda Resort.

 For reservations call 587-2302 (Mon-Sun) Or book online at: www.pelican-aruba.com

 PRESENT THIS AD AND RECEIVE
 \$10 DISCOUNT PER COUPLE

Russia revamps Arctic military base to stake claim on region

 By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
 Associated Press

SEVERNY KLEVER MILITARY BASE, Russia (AP) — Missile

launchers ply icy roads and air defense systems point menacingly into the sky at this Arctic military outpost, a key vantage point for Russia to project its power over the resource-rich polar region.

The base, dubbed Severny Klever (Northern Clover) for its trefoil shape, is painted in the white, blue and red colors of the Russian national flag. It has been designed so soldiers can reach all of its sprawling facilities without venturing outdoors — a useful precaution in an area where temperatures often plunge to minus 50 Celsius (minus 58 Fahrenheit) during the winter, and even in the short Arctic summer are often freezing at night.

It's strategically located on Kotelnny Island, between the Laptev Sea and the East Siberian Sea on the Arctic shipping route, and permanently houses up to 250 military personnel responsible for maintaining air and sea surveillance facilities and coastal defenses like anti-ship missiles.

The Russian base has enough supplies to remain fully autonomous for more than a year.

"Our task is to monitor the airspace and the northern sea route," said base commander Lt. Col. Vladimir Pasechnik. "We have all we need for our service and comfortable living."

Russia is not alone in trying to assert jurisdiction over parts of the Arctic, as shrinking polar ice opens fresh opportunities for resource exploration and new shipping lanes. The United States, Canada, Denmark and Norway are jostling for position, as well, and China



In this photo taken on Wednesday, April 3, 2019, a Russian soldier stands guard as Pansyr-S1 air defense system on the Kotelnny Island, part of the New Siberian Islands archipelago located between the Laptev Sea and the East Siberian Sea, Russia.

also has shown an increasing interest in the polar region.

But while U.S. President Donald Trump's administration has seen the Arctic through the lens of security and economic competition with Russia and China, it has yet to demonstrate that the region is a significant priority in its overall foreign policy. The post of special U.S. representative for the Arctic has remained vacant since Trump assumed office.

Russia, however, has made reaffirming its presence in the Arctic a top goal, not the least because the region is believed to hold up to one-quarter of the Earth's undiscovered oil and gas. Russian President Vladimir Putin has cited estimates that put the value of Arctic mineral riches at \$30 trillion. The move has alarmed Russia's neighbors, analysts say.

"In Russia, the Northern sea route has been described as a bonanza with lots of

potential of economic development," said Flemming Splidsboel Hansen of the Danish Institute for International Studies. "And that's why there is a need for military capacity in the area. It is likely meant as defensive, but it is being interpreted by the West as offensive." Kristian Soeby Kristensen, a researcher at Copenhagen University in Denmark, said the problem of Russian hegemony in the Arctic was most obvious to Norway.

"Norway is a small country, whose next-door neighbor is mighty Russia, which has placed the bulk of its military capacity right next to them," Soeby Kristensen said. "Norway is extraordinarily worried."

In 2015, Russia submitted to the United Nations a revised bid for vast territories in the Arctic. It claimed 1.2 million square kilometers (over 463,000 square miles) of Arctic sea shelf, extending more than 350 nautical miles (about 650 kilometers)

from the shore.

As part of a multi-pronged effort to stake Russia's claims on the Arctic region, the Kremlin has poured massive resources into modernizing Soviet-era installations there.

The military outpost on Kotelnny Island fell into neglect after the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union, but a massive effort to build a new base began in 2014 and took several years.

A group of reporters brought to the island by the Russian Defense Ministry on Wednesday were shown Bastion anti-ship missile launchers positioned for a drill near the shore and Pansyr-S1 air defense systems firing shots at a practice target.

The Russian military has kept Western media from visiting its Arctic facilities, so the trip offered a unique opportunity to watch the Russian expansion up close. A big radar dome looms on a hill overlooking the coast, underlining the base's

main mission of monitoring the strategic area. In contrast with drab, Soviet-era facilities, the pristine new base features spacious living quarters, a gym and a sauna. Putin's words about the importance of the Arctic for Russia dot the base's walls and a symbolic border post sits in a hallway.

Soldiers at the base say they are proud of their mission despite the challenging Arctic environment.

"Proving to myself that I can do it raises my self-esteem," said one of the soldiers, Sergei Belogov. "Weather is our enemy here, so we need to protect ourselves from it to serve the Motherland."

Extreme cold and fierce winds often make it hard to venture outside, and even winterized vehicles may have trouble operating when temperatures plunge to extreme lows and even special lubricants freeze.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu reported to Putin in December that the military has rebuilt or expanded numerous facilities across the polar region, revamping runways and deploying air defense assets. He said renovation works were conducted on a long string of Arctic territories.

The expanded infrastructure has allowed the Russian military to restore full radar coverage of the nation's 22,600-kilometer (14,000-mile) Arctic frontier and deploy fighter jets to protect its airspace.

The military also has undertaken a cleanup effort across the region, working to remove tens of thousands of tons of waste from the Arctic territories, most of it rusty fuel tanks left behind by the Soviet military. The Russian soldiers share the island with polar bears, arctic foxes and wolves. □

Mountain park becomes public bath amid Venezuela crisis

By **FABIOLA SANCHEZ**

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — After generations

of breathing life into Venezuela's crowded capital, the tree-covered slopes of El Avila mountain looming above Caracas are being transformed into a public bath amid worsening power failures that are disrupting life in the crisis-racked country.

Every day, hundreds of people without running water hike up from the city on Avila's winding trails to bathe, wash clothes and collect water to carry home. To the dismay of environmental activists who fear the damage will be irreversible, people are littering its slopes and creeks with shampoo and water bottles, food wrappers, cardboard and old clothes. Wildfires in recent weeks that charred swaths of the drought-stricken mountain have compounded the damage, threatening to leave long-term environmental scars on the land declared a national park six decades ago.

School bus driver Gorge Egilis Escalante and his teenage daughter dragged a pink basket of dirty clothes to a secluded spot recently. Spigots in their Chacaito neighborhood ran dry



Angel Sanchez bathes in one of the streams that comes down from El Avila National Park, during interruptions in running water in Caracas, Venezuela, Wednesday, April 3, 2019.

nearly a month earlier.

"I never would have imagined doing this here," Escalante said while soaking a shirt in a bucket of stream water and detergent after scrubbing it on a rock. "We have the government to thank for this."

Residents of Caracas have been crowding waterways in the park of 315 square miles (81,800 hectares) every day since Venezuela's power grid failed March 7, knocking out lights as well as the pumps that move water to homes.

The nationwide blackout, and others that have followed, comes as President Nicolas Maduro and opposition leader Juan Guaidó struggle over power. The opposition, which blames Venezuela's economic collapse on mismanagement and damaging policies by the socialist government, is trying to oust Maduro with backing from the United States and some 50 other nations.

Officially given the indignant name "Waraira Repano," or "Sierra Grande,"

the park is home to dozens of birds and other species, such as opossums, bats, squirrels, pumas, foxes, porcupines and deer.

The wildlife relies on its pristine brooks and creeks for water and the animals put their nests and burrows amid the vast stretch of trees and shrubs that is now being invaded by humans. Liquor store clerk Jonathan Lopez said he began visiting Avila at dawn two weeks ago to bathe and collect water after his poor 23rd of January neighbor-

hood lost electricity.

"It gives you the shivers," he said of his bath in the crystal-clear Chacaito stream, scooping water with his hands to rinse soap from his head and body while standing thigh-deep. "But you have to put up to get by."

Nearby, a thin man wearing jeans and a light blue sweat shirt filled plastic bottles with water. Then he unzipped his trousers and tried to urinate unnoticed in the stream.

Wildfires that have hit the park lately and the influx of people have put the mountain in a "high risk" situation, said José Manuel Silva, director of Venezuela Verde, a charity dedicated to environmental protection.

But there is little that can be done to protect the park amid Venezuela's economic crunch, he said. He noted that state agencies have had to dramatically reduce numbers of park rangers and firefighters. And, he added, it's impossible to stop the influx of people searching for water — a basic human necessity.

Doing rounds at Avila, a National Parks Institute official said authorities are aware of the trash piling up and the environmental damage. □

Cuba reduces newspaper length due to paper shortage

By **MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN**

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — The Cuban government says a newsprint shortage is forcing at least six state-run newspapers to cut back on pages and circulation days in a potent sign of the cash shortage confronting the island.

The newspaper Granma said in Thursday editions that the Cuban Communist Party organ and several other papers are cutting back from 16 to eight pages on Wednesdays and Fridays. The changes take effect Friday. The newspaper of the Communist Youth League, Juventud Rebelde, will stop publishing on Saturdays.



In this Feb. 3, 2015 file photo, a man reads a copy of the official newspaper of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party, Granma, as a woman walks past, in old Havana.

Associated Press

Granma attributed the change to "difficulties in the availability of newsprint in the country," without providing details. Cuba has

imported newsprint from China in recent years and the government has been suffering cash-flow problems forcing cutbacks in

a wide range of imported products.

While the government has recently allowed much more fluid access to the internet and mobile data services, most Cubans still receive news from broadcast media and print newspapers.

The last major cutback in newsprint was during the "special period" of shortages and hardships that followed the fall of the Soviet Union. Cuba today appears far from a new "special period" but the island has been suffering increasingly frequent and long-lasting shortages of basic products including flour, cooking oil, chicken and eggs, all blamed on a

shortage of hard currency. The government does not release much basic economic information, but gross domestic product growth has largely been flat since 2016, due in large part due to the economic free-fall of Venezuela, Cuba's closest ally and source of highly subsidized petroleum for nearly two decades.

Observers say the slow-moving diversification of Cuba's economy, with a tourist sector that drew 4.7 million visitors last year, billions in remittances from abroad and direct flights to countries around the world, offers some degree of protection from severe economic collapse. □

LOCAL



Open House at University of Aruba

ORANJESTAD — Are you curious what our university has to offer? Would you like to hear it straight from the current students and are you ready to learn about the different bachelor and master programs they offer? Than take a ride to the Open House of the University of Aruba this coming Saturday, April 6th from 9.30 am. The location is the Main building (opposite the post office in Oranjestad).

There will be different information sessions for prospective students and parents where you can learn all about the study program, listen to the experience of our students and enjoy the beautiful garden. The intention of this day is to give you a sense of what it is like to be a student at the university. The program is as follows:

- 09:30 - 10:00

Doors open. Sign up and receive your welcome package.

- 10:00 - 11:00

First information session from all study programs, including the new study program SISSTEM. Parents can also attend the parent information session.

- 11:00 - 11:45

Break (Refreshments on sale). Visit the booths outside for more information about the university.

- 11:45 - 12:45

Second information session from all study programs or attend the parent information session.

- 12:45 - 13:00

Visit the information booths outside.

The University of Aruba currently offers degree programs at the Faculties of Law; Accounting, Finance & Marketing; Hospitality, Tourism Management & International Studies; Arts & Science. These Faculties offer educational programs and research activities, as well as services to society. Each of the Faculties is led by a Dean and the Faculty Council, with a representation of lecturers, students and administrative staff. The academic staff consists of full-time and part-time lectures and professors. The ratio of teaching staff to students allows for small classes and plenty of individual student guidance.

For more information have a look at the website www.ua.com or Facebook page University of Aruba. You may also call tel.: (297) 526-2257 or E-mail: osa@ua.aw. □




lgsmiths.com

LGS

L.G. SMITH'S
STEAK & CHOP HOUSE


SURRENDER TO YOUR
EVERY CRAVING.



As the centerpiece of Aruba's thriving downtown district, L.G. Smith's delivers an unsurpassed steakhouse experience, elevated by our passion, culinary chops and "attitude is everything" mantra.

And join us every Friday for the only Kobe Steak on the island as our chef prepares succulent cuts of rare Kobe Steak paired with an exclusive wine list.

The #1 Steakhouse in Aruba according to Trip Advisor.
Located in Oranjestad, next to Wind Creek Crystal Casino.
Open nightly for dinner. For reservations please call 523.6195.



It's A Wrap

ORANJESTAD — Aruba Today recently launched its very first video of the series 'Ask Pilar' at Facebook Aruba Today and on our website www.arubatoday.com. Let us introduce to you this fresh new project and the people behind it.

Why a video? Besides our daily printed free newspaper, our posts on Facebook and Instagram and our website content we started evaluating the plans for short video's about a year ago. The concept was created by Editor-in-Chief Linda Reijnders to add variation to the product Aruba Today. "There is more to this island than palm trees and beaches and in our videos we wish to inform and educate the visitor by showing local places of any kind. We are all new to this, but goal is not to deliver a technical perfect result, moreover motivate with the content and topic as well as the good energy coming from it." Aruba Today will publish two or more videos per week and the concept will be interactive. Meaning that as the title of the video 'Ask Pilar' already reveals, the viewer has the tool to actually ask about the topics shown or maybe even suggest a location/topic for a video. Just ask our host Pilar through Facebook comments or messenger.

THE TEAM

Pilar Flores, 33 years old, is the jolly Video Host of 'Ask Pilar'. She loves doing the videos because she gets to meet a lot of nice people and to know many interesting places. "I hope with it that people will get to know and love Aruba the way us locals do." Flores is Executive Editor at Bon Dia Newspaper, Aruba Today's sister, where she is fond



#AskPilar

of being up to date on all current happenings and events and having the inside information. She has a Bachelor of Theology, achieved in Aberdeen, Scotland and a Masters of Applied Ethics in Utrecht, The Netherlands. "In my leisure time I

like to walk in Arikok National park, play with my three cats, color and spend time with my boyfriend." The one capturing the images with his camera and edit them into the end result is our Videographer Juan Luis Pinto Sotter, Marketing

Major at the University of Aruba. "I chose marketing because I wanted a career that kept me physically and mentally active. As a junior marketer there is a lot of moving around, I can't begin to imagine what the real world will be like." His hobbies include photography, gaming, and working on his car. "I am not a car mechanic, however YouTube helps a lot and I find it very therapeutic to put everything aside and work on this piece of metal that helps me move long distances." Juan Luis loves to capture moments with his camera and edit them into a dynamic video.

Video Director of 'Ask Pilar' is Editor-in-Chief Linda Reijnders, working in this current position since July 2017 and before that for six years with the local newspaper in Dutch, Amigoe di Aruba as a journalist and Editor-in-Chief of the magazine H&H. "I love working in the media, I love to write, create, connect, inform and educate. Working with young, talented and motivated people like Juan Luis and Pilar is a blessing to me. We really enjoy making these Aruba Peeks and we for sure hope that rubs off to the viewer."

Check us out on Facebook Aruba Today or the website www.arubatoday.com and do not forget to like and share! Thank you for your support. □



• Join the Players' Club and **WIN UP TO \$1,000 IN FREE SLOT PLAY** — Guaranteed! •

50/30 Friday!

We're giving away
\$50 Free Slot Play
to lucky slot and
table game players
every 30 minutes
from 7pm to midnight!

THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Offering a wide variety of Retail & Dining Outlets,
Salon & Spa Services, Souvenirs and more.

Subway | Juan Valdez Café | Dunkin Donuts | Baskin-Robbins
Fusion Piano & Wine Bar | TOF Twist of Flavors | Aruba Aloe
WE'R CUBA | Bijoux Terner Boutique | R-Glass | Curated Lab
Hungry Piranha | The Lazy Lizard | The Market
Shalom Body & Soul Spa | The Collectables

Alhambra
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 4am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47
583.5000 | casinoalhambra.com

Aruba to Me

ORANJESTAD – We would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island. Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. ☐



For today's newspaper we received a great picture from

Jim and Dawn Schwiesow.
They wrote to us:

Aruba to us is..... Our Love Story

We Met March 2018 at Costa Linda Resort. Jim gave Dawn a birthday kiss on the 20th then the next day a 2nd kiss. Then kissed every morning after that. We exchanged phone numbers and email addresses.

Back in the USA we had a long distance relationship. We clicked right away and found ourselves talking everyday by phone. We then had our first date in Wisconsin. We knew it was serious and did not want to be apart.

During the past year we became closer and decided to marry on Dawns birthday March 20th, 2019, 1 year after the first kiss.

Our friends and family all came and we married in Aruba in a civil service at the village hall and then to the beach!

Urgency (UCA) or Emergency (ED)? How to choose where to go for medical attention



Dr. Carlos Yagua Jr. and Dr. Carlos Yagua Sr., son and father

ORANJESTAD — When on vacation and an unexpected health mishap arise, many people's first reaction is to head to an emergency room. But when those illnesses and injuries aren't true emergencies, not knowing the best option for care can end up costing both time and money.

So how can you know where to go when medical attention is needed?

Urgent Care Aruba (UCA) or Emergency Department?

UCA at the Noord Medical Center provide a way to keep up with patients' daily healthcare needs, serving as a vital link between the emergency room and primary care physicians.

Dr. Carlos Yagua Velasquez, Managing Director of UCA explains that they, as a family of nine (9) physicians, started the development of UCA in 2013 because it provides pa-



tients with an alternative to the emergency room, which can be too costly and time-consuming for situations like common illnesses and minor injuries. He states that "While the ED at the Dr. Horacio Oduber is best equipped to handle life-threatening illnesses and injuries, it's important that patients are aware that there are more affordable options available for less serious situations."

Due to shorter wait times – they offer a wait time of 30 minutes or less – and much lower prices, as a more convenient and affordable option than, but not a substitute for, an emergency room. To help the local community and their visitors from abroad to save money, Urgent Care Aruba known as UCA, is gathering resources to educate and promote on the best healthcare options.

When care is needed for true emergency situations, such as heart attacks, strokes, major bleeding or severe burns, it's vital to go to the ED at the Dr. Horacio Oduber Hospital immediately.

Financial Savings

When patients visit an emergency room for a non-emergency, they risk incurring a substantial financial loss. Emergency rooms are more expensive for treatment of non-life-threatening situations, while UCA at the Noord Medical Center charges an average of 1/3 of the cost.

Plus, a large percentage of all emergency room visits could take place at UCA, which would save consumers. Additionally, UCA accepts certain travel insurance plans, with either full coverage, co-pays, or they will provide you with all pertinent documentation for reimbursement as a self-pay visit.

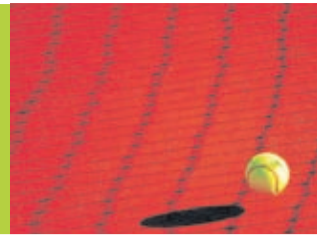
Understanding the options

"With the availability of a facility, such as UCA, patients need to take care to understand their options," Dr. Carlos Yagua Jr said. "The emergency room prices can cause sticker shock for patients who aren't aware of the distinction."

Residents and visitors from abroad should be sure to confirm the type of facility they're visiting, as treatment at the ER may cost more than UCA at the Noord Medical Center. □

Contact:
Carlos Yagua Velasquez
UMC Urgent Medical Care NV
+297-5860448
cyaguav@urgentcare.aw
www.urgentcare.aw

SPORTS



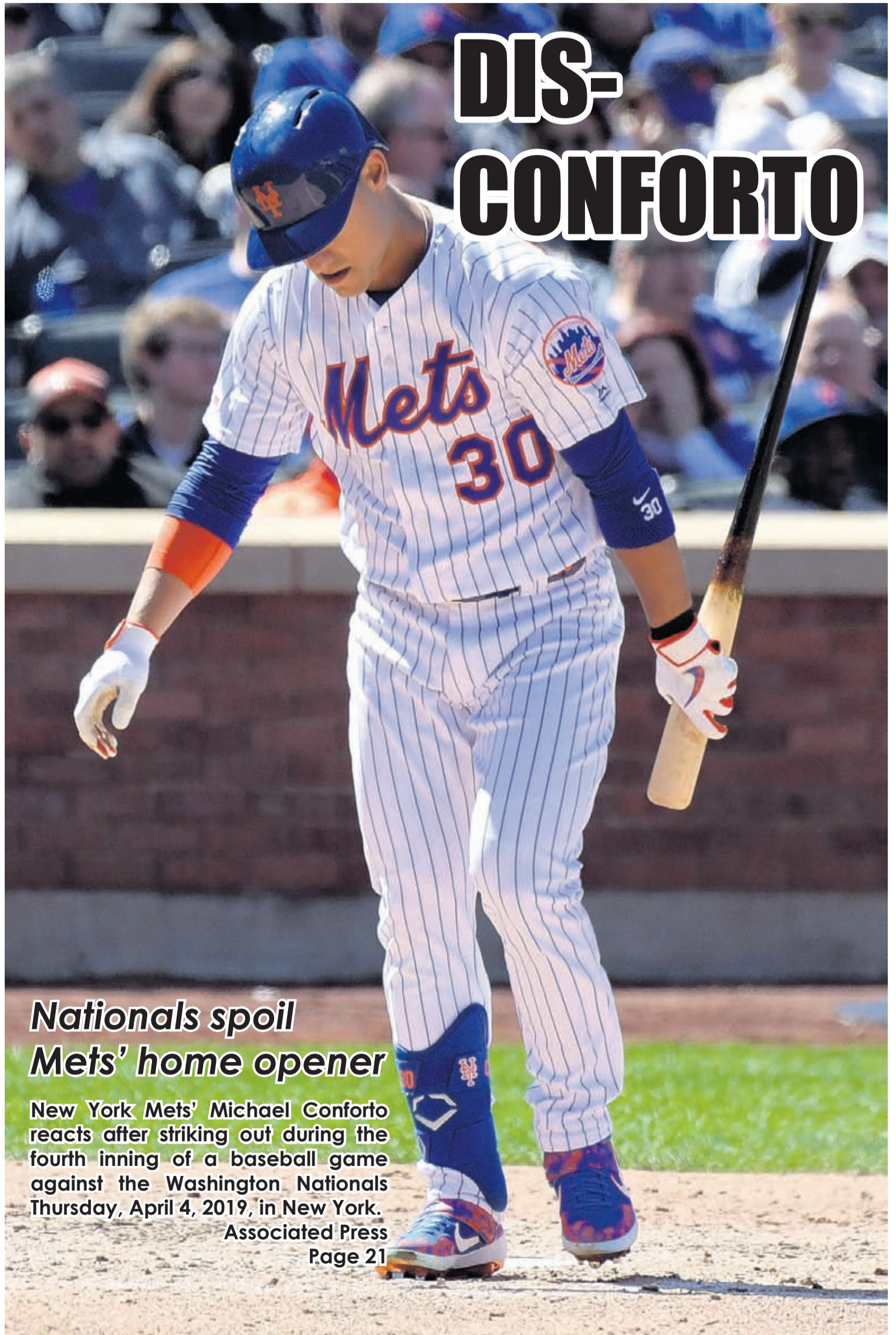
Lexi Thompson hits from the rough on the second hole during the first round of the LPGA Tour ANA Inspiration golf tournament at Mission Hills Country Club Thursday, April 4, 2019, in Rancho Mirage, Calif.

Associated Press

Lexi Thompson tied for early lead at ANA Inspiration

By JOHN NICHOLSON
AP Sports Writer
RANCHO MIRAGE, Calif. (AP) — Lexi Thompson birdied the final two holes Thursday for a 3-under 69 and a share of ANA Inspiration lead halfway through the opening round of the first major championship of the year. The 2014 champion was tied with Jin Young Ko and Hyo Joo Kim after the morning wave at Mission Hills, the tree-lined course made more difficult this year with thick rough, tighter fairways and some lengthened holes. Top-ranked Sung Hyun Park, Nelly Korda, Inbee Park, Brooke Henderson and Michelle Wie played in the afternoon. Thompson birdied the difficult par-3 17th, with the pin on the far right side, then hit a wedge close on the par-5 18th after caddie Benji Thompson talked her into hitting a lower-lofted club.

Continued on Page 23



DIS-CONFORTO

Nationals spoil Mets' home opener

New York Mets' Michael Conforto reacts after striking out during the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Washington Nationals Thursday, April 4, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press
Page 21

Woods, McIlroy have Masters on mind for different reasons



In this April 12, 2015, file photo, Tiger Woods, left, shakes hands with Rory McIlroy, of Northern Ireland, on the 18th hole during the fourth round of the Masters golf tournament, in Augusta, Ga.

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
AP Golf Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — The Masters should have been the first major Rory McIlroy won.

Now it is the only one he is missing.

Augusta National was thought to be the domain of Tiger Woods when he won four green jackets before turning 30.

Now he is 43, with eight surgeries behind him, so far removed from his last Masters victory that the club has changed chairmen twice since he last won 14 years ago.

McIlroy and Woods are the central figures at the 83rd Masters, which starts April 11. They share the stage with a cast of characters that gets deeper and stronger every year, so tough that 23 of the last 25 major champions were among the top 25 in the world ranking.

One is looking to join the most elite group in golf by

capturing the final leg of the career Grand Slam.

The other is looking to recapture glory on a course where his red shirt was blazing among the azaleas, dogwoods and all the colors of springtime in Augusta. Woods has always had a hold on the Masters, so much that his Sunday shirt packed as much interest as the green jacket. To see him two years ago walk gingerly to the Masters Club dinner for past champions was to wonder if he would ever shine at Augusta, much less play. It was only a few weeks later that Woods had a fourth surgery on his back to fuse the lower spine.

He not only returned, Woods capped his remarkable comeback by winning in Georgia last year for his 80th career victory on the PGA Tour. But it was at East Lake in late September, not at Augusta National the second week in April.

Is his comeback complete

without a major?

Woods last year was still learning what his fused back was capable of doing. He was coming off two close calls in Florida, but he didn't break par at the Masters until the final day, when it was much too late. Now he is building, and while his results in five tournaments this year have not been anything special, Woods has been gearing for this week.

"I'm right there where I need to be," he said. "I've gotten a little bit more consistent with my play, and I think that everything is headed on track toward April."

His last two majors were telling because he was in the hunt at both of them until the final hour. He briefly had the lead at Carnoustie in the British Open. He chased Brooks Koepka all the way to the finish line in the PGA Championship.

McIlroy had reason to think he would be allowed up-

stairs in the champions' locker room by now. It was in 2011 when he had a four-shot lead, only to throw it away with a tee shot behind the cabins, a four-putt from 12 feet, a wild drive along the azaleas and an 80 on his scorecard.

He responded by winning four of the next 15 majors, before being slowed by a few nagging injuries.

This will be his fifth shot at the career Grand Slam, and he is getting closer. McIlroy played in the final group last year with Patrick Reed, missing a short eagle putt on the second hole that set the tone for his day. Already this year, he has not finished out of the top 10 in all seven of his tournaments, including a victory at The Players Championship against the best field in golf.

Is he excited? Hard to tell. McIlroy has spent the last year reading books on life and success, working more on his attitude than his golf

game. He is determined not to let the sport define his success. And it appears to be paying off. Las Vegas has installed him as the favorite at the Masters.

This figures to be his biggest test. So powerful is the allure of Augusta National and the exclusivity of the club and its list of winners that players have been haunted over the years at being left out, whether it was Greg Norman or Tom Weiskopf, David Duval or Tom Kite.

That's just the mystique. Equally tough will be the players Woods and McIlroy are trying to beat.

McIlroy at No. 3 is among five players who are vying for No. 1 in the world — Justin Rose, Dustin Johnson, Brooks Koepka and Justin Thomas are the others. All of them have reached the top of the ranking before, all of them having won a major or more. It has never been this crowded at the top since the ranking began in 1986.

Missing from that list, and perhaps the most intriguing player at the Masters besides Woods and McIlroy, is Jordan Spieth.

No one has performed as well at Augusta as Spieth since his debut five years ago — two runner-up finishes, a wire-to-wire victory, in the hunt on Sunday every year and ending the day atop the leaderboard eight times out of 20 rounds.

But he is in the worst slump of his young career, winless since the 2017 British Open, no performance in the top 20 this year. He says his game is close. The Masters might be the ultimate measure of how close — or far — he really is.

That is also true for Woods, McIlroy and everyone else. Three months into the year, six months into the PGA Tour season, golf doesn't feel as though it really starts until Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player hit the honorary tee shot, until "Fore, please" is heard on the first tee as players are introduced, and until that first big cheer makes fans wonder where it came from and what it was for. □

APNewsBreak: \$15,000 bonuses for All-Star voting leaders

By **RONALD BLUM**
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The most popular players in All-Star voting will be in the money — at least enough to cover part of the season's clubhouse tips.

The highest vote-getter in both leagues in the first round of the new fan voting system will receive a \$15,000 bonus, according to details obtained by The Associated Press. That payment will go to the leading vote-getter at catcher and each infield position plus the top three among outfielders.

For all positions other than the outfield, the second-place finishers will receive \$5,000 apiece and the third-place finishers \$2,500 each.

Major League Baseball announced the addition of prize money on March 14 but did not reveal the amounts. This year's All-Star Game is July 9 in Cleveland. Most of last year's elected starters have huge salaries this year, including Philadelphia outfielder Bryce Harper (\$10 million salary plus \$20 million in signing bonus payments), Los Angeles Angels outfielder Mike Trout (\$16 million salary this year plus a \$20 million signing bonus payment) and Colorado third baseman Nolan Arenado (\$26 million).

Only two of last year's elected starters earn below \$1 million this season: New York Yankees outfielder Aaron Judge (\$684,300) and Chicago Cubs catcher Willson Contreras (\$684,000).

Fan voting resumed in 1970 for All-Star starters other than pitchers, and the division into two phases this year marks the biggest change since. The new system was agreed to by Major League Baseball and the players' association on March 8 along with on-field rule changes for this year and 2020.

A primary voting period will start in late May or early June and last three-to-four weeks. A fan able to cast up five on-line votes per day, After a break of two-



Philadelphia Phillies' Bryce Harper jogs onto the field before a baseball game against the Washington Nationals at Nationals Park, Wednesday, April 3, 2019, in Washington.

Associated Press

to-three days to allow promotional campaigns, a final vote will be conducted during a 24-to-48-hour period in late June or early July. The bonus pool for the winning All-Star team has been increased from \$640,000 to \$800,000, which translates to a hike from \$20,000 to \$25,000 per player.

The Home Run Derby prize money has been increased from \$750,000 previously specified for this year to \$2.5 million, and the winner's amount has risen from \$150,000 to \$1 million. The losing finalist gets \$500,000 instead of \$100,000, and the six other participants \$150,000 each rather than \$75,000. The player with the longest home run gets an extra \$100,000, up from \$25,000. □

\$10 Match Play

DOUBLE YOUR WIN | Redeem only at Blackjack Tables.

Please note: Limit one per person, per day. Must be 18 years or older. Coupon is valid for tourist and locals and is not redeemable for cash. Not valid with any other promotion. Management reserves the right to change promotion without notice.

Orchid Casino
Located at Riu Antillas as formerly The Westin Resort.

\$10 Slot Play

DOUBLE YOUR WIN | Redeem at Hostess Desk.

Please note: Receive \$10 FREE Slot Play when you sign up and become a VIP Player's Club Member. Limit one per person. Must be 18 years or older. Photo ID required upon redemption of this coupon. Coupon is not redeemable for cash. Management reserves the right to change promotion without notice.

Orchid Casino
Located at Riu Antillas as formerly The Westin Resort.

\$20 Extra Bonus

Valid once per night

Poker Room

Please note: Buy in for \$200 or more & receive extra \$20 bonus, one hour minimum play.

Orchid Casino
Located at Riu Antillas as formerly The Westin Resort.

Harden, Paul lead Rockets to rout of Clippers

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — James Harden scored 31 points, Chris Paul added 29 points, and the Houston Rockets routed the Los Angeles Clippers 135-103 on Wednesday night in a potential playoff preview. Clint Capela had 24 points and 15 rebounds to help the Rockets win their fourth in a row. They showed little fatigue in cruising past the NBA's hottest team while playing their last back-to-back of the season. The Rockets currently own the third seed in the Western Conference and the Clippers are sixth, which would pair them in the first round.

Paul stunned the crowd by hitting a deep 3-pointer that beat the buzzer to end the third, in which the Rockets outscored the Clippers 34-20.

Rookie Shai Gilgeous-Alexander led the Clippers with 20 points and Danilo Gallinari added 16. They had won an NBA-best 13 of 15 coming in, but lost for the first time in three meetings with Houston this season.

JAZZ 118, SUNS 97

PHOENIX (AP) — Donovan Mitchell scored 29 points, leading the playoff-bound Utah Jazz past the Suns. Phoenix lost star guard Devin Booker with 4:28 left in the first quarter when he landed awkwardly on his left ankle while jumping to receive a pass. Booker sprained his left ankle and left the game with eight points.

Joe Ingles scored 15 of his 27 points in the second quarter, and Rudy Gobert had 17 points, 13 rebounds and five blocked shots for the Jazz, who remained in fifth place in the Western Conference and have won 11 of 12.

Richaun Holmes' 16 points and nine rebounds led the Suns, who have lost seven of eight.

HORNETS 115, PELICANS 109

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Kemba Walker scored 21 of his 32 points in the fourth quarter, and the Charlotte Hornets kept alive their slim playoff hopes with a victory over the Pelicans.



Houston Rockets' Chris Paul, bottom, reaches for a loose ball in front of Los Angeles Clippers' Tyrone Wallace during the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, April 3, 2019, in Los Angeles.

The Hornets trailed by five in the middle of the fourth when Walker's 3 ignited a 14-6 run that put Charlotte in front for good. He hit a pair of driving layups and a second 3 during the decisive spurt.

Frank Kaminsky added 21 points and rookie Devonte Graham scored a career-high 13 points for the Hornets (36-42), who, with four games to play, sit 2½ games behind Orlando (39-40) for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Julius Randle had 34 points and 11 rebounds for New Orleans, which has dropped five of six games.

HAWKS 130, 76ERS 122

ATLANTA (AP) — Trae Young had 33 points and 12 assists, John Collins added 25 points, and the Hawks handed the playoff-bound Philadelphia 76ers their second straight loss.

The Sixers began the night needing one victory and a loss by Boston to secure the No. 3 seed in the Eastern Conference, but they have dropped four of six, a stretch that began with a last-second setback at Atlanta 10 days ago.

Coming off a lackluster loss at Dallas two nights ago, the Sixers were without star center Joel Embiid for the third straight game. Forward Jimmy Butler returned

from a one-game absence with back tightness and finished with 16 points.

Philadelphia, which missed 16 of 38 free throws, got 30 points from J.J. Redick and 21 from Tobias Harris. After 27 lead changes and 13 ties in the first three quarters, the Sixers never led in the fourth.

TIMBERWOLVES 110, MAV-ERICKS 108

DALLAS (AP) — Karl-Anthony Towns had 28 points and 13 rebounds, Andrew Wiggins hit the go-ahead bucket in the final minute and the Minnesota Timberwolves turned back a fourth-quarter rally by the Mavericks.

Dallas rookie sensation Luka Doncic scored 27 points, but passed up a potential winning 3-pointer on another cold night from long range. Jalen Brunson took the pass and missed from 3 at the buzzer on a shot that would have required a replay to see if the fellow rookie got it off in time.

Dirk Nowitzki, who has just two home games remaining in what is expected to be the 40-year-old's final season, scored nine points. The Mavericks were coming off their first two-game winning streak since early February.

NUGGETS 113, SPURS 85

DENVER (AP) — Nikola Jokic scored 20 points, grabbed

11 rebounds and dished out nine of Denver's season-high 41 assists as the Nuggets routed the Spurs in a game in which San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich was ejected after just 63 seconds.

Jamal Murray added 14 points and 11 assists for a Nuggets team that's currently holding down the No. 2 seed in the West with four games remaining.

An irate Popovich was given two quick technicals and was sent to the locker room at 10:57 of the opening quarter. The last time a coach was ejected within the first 2 minutes of a game was Washington's Flip Saunders on January 2, 2012, at Boston, according to research by the Elias Sports Bureau. Saunders was ejected 1:46 into that game.

LaMarcus Aldridge and Lonnie Walker IV each had 16 points for the Spurs, who slipped into the eighth spot with the loss.

BULLS 115, WIZARDS 114

WASHINGTON (AP) — Walt Lemon Jr. scored a career-high 24 points, including two free throws with 1.8 seconds to play, to help the Chicago Bulls snap a five-game losing streak.

Lemon, in just his third game with Chicago, was one of seven Bulls in double figures in the matchup of

teams whose seasons will end without a playoff appearance. JaKarr Sampson added 18 points for the Bulls.

Thomas Bryant scored 20 points and grabbed 12 rebounds for Washington. Bobby Portis had 20 points and 10 rebounds, and Bradley Beal added 19 points. The Wizards played their first game since Ernie Grunfeld was fired as team president after 16 seasons on Tuesday.

PACERS 108, PISTONS 89

DETROIT (AP) — Thaddeus Young scored 21 points, and the Indiana Pacers took advantage of Blake Griffin's absence, beating the Pistons.

Griffin missed a third straight game for the Pistons, who are in the middle of a tight race for the final playoff spots in the Eastern Conference. The star forward has been dealing with left knee soreness.

Detroit came into the night in sixth place in the East, but just 1½ games ahead of ninth-place Orlando. The Magic gained ground with a win over New York on Wednesday.

The Pacers snapped a 10-game losing streak on the road, and they won for just the third time in their last 10 games. Bojan Bogdanovic and Myles Turner scored 17 points apiece, and Domantas Sabonis added 15 points and 13 rebounds. Andre Drummond had 28 points and 19 rebounds for the Pistons, and Wayne Ellington scored 24 points.

CELTICS 112, HEAT 102

MIAMI (AP) — Gordon Hayward scored 25 points, Kyrie Irving added 23 and the Boston Celtics pulled away in the final minutes to beat the Heat.

Al Horford scored 21 and Jayson Tatum scored nine of his 16 points in the fourth quarter for the Celtics, who went on a 10-2 run over a decisive three-minute late stretch. That little burst turned a two-point lead into a 10-point edge, and Boston finished off its second win over Miami in a three-night span — dealing the Heat's playoff hopes a serious blow. □

Strasburg, Nats win 4-0 to ruin home opener for weary Mets

By MIKE FITZPATRICK

AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Without much time to rest up for their home opener, the New York Mets were no match for Stephen Strasburg.

A pinpoint Strasburg out-pitched Noah Syndergaard, rookie Victor Robles homered for Washington's only hit until the ninth inning and the Nationals beat the drowsy Mets 4-0 on Thursday.

"Just executing the game plan. I think the biggest thing is never taking a pitch off," Strasburg said.

Following a 5-1 trip to start the season, the Mets got back to New York after 2 a.m. in the wake of a 6-4 victory at Miami. They were even held up about 30-45 minutes postgame Wednesday night while Dominic Smith chugged enough water to be able to complete a drug test. But around 11 hours after arriving in Queens in the middle of the night, they were back on the field again — and their lineup looked sleepy while striking out 14 times.

"I don't think we were in the proper situation to win a ballgame based on the rest of the guys' sleep and travel," said Syndergaard, who flew to New York ahead of his teammates.



Washington Nationals starting pitcher Stephen Strasburg throws to the New York Mets during the first inning of a baseball game, Thursday, April 4, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press

He would have preferred a day game Wednesday in Miami or a night game Thursday at home.

"That would have been nice," Syndergaard said.

Wilmer Difo drove in two runs, and Washington's struggling bullpen shined after Strasburg (1-0) struck out nine in 6 2/3 innings. Working with a 91-94 mph fastball rather than the 98-99 mph heat he used to bring, the 30-year-old righty kept the ball off the barrel and walked just one.

"Pitching isn't just about throwing as hard as you can. I never felt like I was a guy who tried to just do that and light up the radar gun and be happy regardless of outcome," Strasburg said. "So, it's just execution. I knew eventually getting older, it's not going to

maintain it. It's just a part of life, but I still want to go out there and compete and give everything I have."

Up against Syndergaard for the second time in six days, Strasburg took a one-hitter into the seventh before giving up consecutive singles with two outs.

Matt Grace threw a called third strike past pinch-hitter J.D. Davis, then Justin Miller and Tony Sipp combined to whiff three in a hitless eighth. Sean Doolittle completed the four-hitter, making Strasburg 8-1 with a 2.14 ERA in 11 starts at Citi Field.

"He's pitching. He's using all his pitches," Nationals manager Dave Martinez said. "He looks really good."

Coming in, Washington relievers ranked last in the majors with an 11.02 ERA, and opponents were bat-

ting .377 against them. But a week after getting shut out in their home opener by Jacob deGrom and the Mets, the Nationals turned the tables.

"If we're going to do this, I've got to trust the bullpen to get the job done. And they got it done," Martinez said.

The only hit Syndergaard (0-1) allowed in six innings was Robles' leadoff homer in the sixth. He struck out six, walked two and lost for the first time in his last eight decisions at home.

The sellout crowd of 44,424 was the second-largest for a regular-season game at Citi Field.

"I thought it was good energy. I think you've got to give credit to their pitcher. Great pitcher," Mets manager Mickey Callaway said. "He was executing pitches at the bottom of the zone, keeping us off kilter, and they just beat us."

Anthony Rendon doubled against Seth Lugo to start the ninth and scored on Ryan Zimmerman's sacrifice fly. Difo, who delivered a safety squeeze in the second, added an RBI single off Tim Peterson.

Wilson Ramos' leadoff single in the bottom of the fifth was the first hit of the game, although Washington had already been handed a run. Syndergaard walked

the first two batters in the second, and both moved up on a wild pitch. Juan Soto scored without a play when Syndergaard wisely went to first with Difo's sacrifice bunt.

The 21-year-old Robles, batting ninth behind Strasburg, drove the first pitch of the sixth over the left-field fence for his second homer this season — both off Syndergaard.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Nationals: INF-OF Howie Kendrick was reinstated from the injured list after recovering from a strained left hamstring. The 35-year-old Kendrick had been sidelined since rupturing his right Achilles tendon on May 19 last year. "I'd like to get him a start here pretty soon," Martinez said. ... 1B Matt Adams (back spasms) pinch-hit in the ninth and grounded into a fielder's choice. Adams left Tuesday's game after taking a nasty fall over a railing while trying to catch a foul popup. ... RHP Anibal Sanchez plans to make his next scheduled start despite a sizable bruise on his right hip. Sanchez was hit by a line drive Wednesday and left his Nationals debut early. ... OF Michael A. Taylor (right knee/hip sprain) was set to begin a rehab assignment at Double-A Harrisburg. □

Kershaw gives up 2 runs in 4 1/3 innings in OKC rehab outing

By CLIFF BRUNT

AP Sports Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) —

Los Angeles Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw gave up two runs and struck out six in 4 1/3 innings during his rehab assignment for Triple-A Oklahoma City on Thursday night.

The three-time Cy Young Award winner threw 61 pitches against the San Antonio Missions, a Milwaukee Brewers affiliate. Oklahoma City trailed 2-0 when Kershaw was pulled in the top of the fifth.

Kershaw developed inflammation in his left shoulder early in spring training. The Dodgers hoped the



Los Angeles Dodgers' Clayton Kershaw throws to first base to pick off San Antonio Missions' Corey Ray in the first inning, as Kershaw pitches for the Oklahoma City Dodgers on a rehab assignment, in the first inning of the teams' Triple-A baseball game Thursday, April 4, 2019, in Oklahoma City.

Associated Press

31-year-old star could be ready for opening day, but they eventually chose to end his franchise-record streak of eight consecutive opening day starts.

The Dodgers said earlier this week that Kershaw would likely need at least one more rehab outing after this before returning to the NL champions.

In the first inning, Kershaw walked leadoff hitter Corey Ray on nine pitches, but he picked him off first. Kershaw fanned Keston Hiura to close out a scoreless inning. In the second, Tyrone Taylor hit a drive down the left field line that barely stayed fair for a solo homer that

put San Antonio ahead. An RBI single by Jacob Nottingham made it 2-0 later in the inning. Kershaw threw scoreless innings in the third and fourth.

Kershaw has missed playing time in each of the past three seasons due to injuries. He was sidelined much of 2016 with a back injury before returning to pitch well late in the season and in the playoffs. He also landed on the disabled list the past two seasons with recurring back pain. The 31-year-old went 9-5 with a 2.73 ERA last year, and 2-3 with a 4.20 ERA during the Dodgers' postseason march to the World Series. □

Laureano nails another Red Sox runner, Athletics win 7-3

By GIDEON RUBIN

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) —

When the reigning AL MVP openly regrets challenging you, that's pretty high praise.

Center fielder Ramon Laureano threw out another Red Sox runner in a key spot, and the Oakland Athletics kept Boston stumbling with a 7-3 win on Thursday. Laureano tossed out three runners as the A's took three of four in the series.

"Rarely do you see three impactful plays like that in a series, because sometimes they stop running on you, but they continued to be aggressive on him, and every time he made a different play from the one before — but all big plays in the course of a game," A's manager Bob Melvin said.

"It's tough to keep finding adjectives for Ramon's throwing, but it's one of a kind," he said.

Mookie Betts led off the Red Sox ninth inning with a walk and tried to take third when Andrew Benintendi followed with a bloop single. But Laureano charged the ball hard and threw on the run to catch Betts, with the out call being upheld on replay.

"I should have known," Betts said. "He's pretty much thrown everybody out. That's what my instincts told me to do and I should have let myself know before anything even happened that my run meant nothing."

On Tuesday night, Laureano threw out Xander Bogaerts at third as he tried to stretch a double in the ninth inning of a game Oakland won 1-0. On Monday night, Laureano threw out Bogaerts at the plate early in a 7-0 win for the A's. The 24-year-old Laureano made his major league debut last year. He now has 12 assists in only 57 games in the outfield with the A's.

"It's a bad decision and he knows it," Red Sox manager Alex Cora said of Betts' base-running blunder.

"The three plays were bang-bang plays, but that



Boston Red Sox's Mookie Betts reacts after striking out looking in the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Oakland Athletics Thursday, April 4, 2019, in Oakland, Calif.

Associated Press

one right there can't happen and he knows it. He came up to me, and for how great a player he is, he makes mistakes and he owned it. He came up to me and said 'that's my fault.'"

Why would anyone challenge Laureano?

"They might, I don't why they would, but they might," Stephen Piscotty said. "I was shocked to see it ... The guy's got a cannon and he's laser accurate."

Piscotty led the A's offense as he went 4 for 4 with a home run, double and five RBIs to help Oakland win for the fifth time in six games.

The Red Sox fell to 2-6, the worst start for a defending World Series champion since the stripped-down Marlins struggled in 1998. J.D. Martinez homered for Boston. Anderson walked home two runs in the first inning. Martinez connected for his third home run in the third, making it 3-0.

The A's tied it in the third on Piscotty's three-run homer off Eduardo Rodriguez (0-2). Rodriguez gave up six runs and eight hits and three walks in 3 2/3 innings.

Piscotty got a gift two-run double with two outs in a three-run third. Oakland had runners at second and third when Piscotty hit a fly to the warning track that split Jackie Bradley Jr. in center and Betts in right — neither outfielder called for the ball and it landed between them, bouncing over the fence for a double.

"The whole game was unusual," Cora said when asked about the outfield miscommunication.

"You didn't see that last year, but last year was last year ... We have to play better, that's the bottom line."

A's relievers Lou Trivino, Joakim Soria and Liam Hendriks combined for 3 2/3 innings of shutout ball.

SHORT HOPS

Martinez has hit safely in all eight games for Boston. ... Rodriguez recorded his 500th career strikeout in the first when he got Khris Davis swinging to end the inning. ... The Red Sox are 16-38 in their past 54 games at Oakland and 3-13-1 in their past 17 full series at the Coliseum. □



In this March 20, 2019, photo Kelly Slater of the U.S. surfs during his heat in the Sydney Surf Pro at Manly in Sydney, Australia.

Associated Press

Wipeout for Kelly Slater at big season-opener on Gold Coast

GOLD COAST, Australia

(AP) — Eleven-time world champion Kelly Slater is out of the season-opening Quiksilver Pro in the World Surf League.

Slater, returning from a lengthy layoff because of broken right foot, placed last in his three-man opening heat and was last again in his second-round elimination heat Thursday in the event which marks the start of Olympic qualifying for surfing.

The veteran American dug in the rail on his first wave and failed to catch his two rivals in his elimination heat. Slater appeared upset with the conditions and with some of his scores, throwing up his hands at times while in the water. He needed a score of 8.07 on his final wave to move into second place in the heat, but with 30 seconds left, missed out entirely.

He said he'd struggled to read the lineup on the Gold Coast, where he has been a multiple winner, and he needed to regroup before the next event at Bells Beach on the southern Australian coast.

"I didn't get many good waves in the end ... it's a tough pill to swallow. Horrible performance," Slater said. "The last three days something has come over me and I've been really struggling. All the pressure, the buildup, has really kind of thrown me off enjoying it. "I need to break out of

that. I better get hungrier." Australian Owen Wright won the heat with 13.73 points ahead of Peterson Crisanto of Brazil, who both advanced. Slater, who would be 48 if he qualified for the U.S. team for next year's Tokyo Olympics, where surfing will debut on the program, finished with 10.63.

Poor surfing conditions at the usual Snapper Rocks venue, caused by a recent cyclone shifting the regular sandbank, meant competition had to be moved around the point to Duranbah for a second straight day.

The Quiksilver Pro and Boost Mobile Pro are the first elite events where men and women will receive equal prize money.

Seven-time world champion Stephanie Gilmore advanced after the first round Thursday in the women's event.

Reigning men's series champion Gabriel Medina advanced directly to the third round by winning his first-round heat on Wednesday. Defending Quiksilver Pro champion Julian Wilson moved into the third round by finishing second in his three-man elimination heat on Thursday.

The top 10-ranked men and eight highest-ranked women on the 2019 WSL tour will be among those qualifying when surfing makes its debut at the Olympics next year in Tokyo. □

Predictably, another gamble lost in AAF failure

By TIM DAHLBERG
AP Sports Columnist

Charlie Ebersol was sure his new football league was different, even as it ventured into the dark hole that had swallowed up ventures like his before. I talked to him in November, before uniforms had even been ordered and one game had aired. The Alliance of American Football league was well financed and for real, he said, and ready to put on a show for a country supposedly starved for more football.

"There is a massive amount of people in this country who watch only one sport on television and that league (the NFL) only plays a set period of time," Ebersol said. "They stop watching sports on TV the day after the Super Bowl and don't come back until the NFL returns."

It all sounded good, maybe too good. Ebersol talked about television contracts, 50 people already working on technology alone in the league's San Francisco office and a gambling deal with MGM Resorts that would take advantage of the explosion in sports betting around the country. A little more than four months later, it's a wrap



In this Feb. 19, 2019, file photo, Tom Dundon, left, majority owner of the Carolina Hurricanes, and Charlie Ebersol, co-founder and CEO of the Alliance of American Football, talk to the media in Raleigh, N.C.

for the AAF. Put together in little more than a year, the league lasted only eight weeks.

Turns out Americans weren't all that hungry for spring football, at least the second-tier product put on the field by the AAF. The market for minor league spring football was minuscule, if not nonexistent.

And a league that claimed to have learned from the

past will become another case study for those in the future.

The question now becomes, is Vince McMahon paying attention?

The WWE chief honcho plans to unveil the latest pro football league next spring under the banner of the XFL, another failed league. According to published reports, McMahon recently sold \$272 million

worth of WWE stock to fund the effort and plans to invest as much as \$500 million to keep it going in its formative years.

Big money, and even bigger plans. For less than the price of an NFL franchise, McMahon envisions owning an entire league.

But will he build one that people care about enough to actually watch? Well, as I pointed out in November

after talking to Ebersol, the track record says no.

A look in the stands at any of the AAF games should make any potential investor — or player — in a new league cautious. A look at the television ratings should send them fleeing to the next big thing somewhere else far, far away.

The AAF wasn't exactly a grand experiment, no matter what its founders said. Recent history is littered with leagues like the USFL, XFL and WFL that launched to great fanfare only to go under amid fan indifference and financial sinkholes.

Spring football doesn't work, and minor league football isn't an appealing product. No one can go head to head with the NFL and, as the AAF found out, no one particularly cares about the NFL's castoffs.

The marketing genius of the WWE isn't enough to overcome that. Neither is sports betting, which AAF had counted on to ensure the league's survival.

The AAF was supposed to be different, but it really wasn't. Take away celebrity coaches Steve Spurrier and Mike Singletary and there wasn't a recognizable face in the league for fans. □

ANA Inspiration

Continued from Page 17

"I wanted to hit my 50 degree, which was max what the yardage was," Thompson said. "He was like, 'No, just chip the 47, take the spin off, in case a gust does come up.' Sure enough, it did. Just chipped up there. I was like, 'Thank you so much, Benji.' That's what a great caddie does. He's there for me to play aggressive and call me off shots that need to be called off." She had five birdies and two bogeys, the first on the par-5 second.

"I just tried to stay into it," Thompson said. "I made a lot of clutch putts on the back nine to save par. Going to go out and hit a few balls on the range, get ev-

everything sorted, and just go out there confidently tomorrow." Fellow major champion Kim eagled the second — her 11th hole of the day — and had four birdies and three bogeys. "I don't have greed on the course," Ko said. "Course is hard, so I'm thinking always, 'Hit the fairway, also green, middle of the green. Like two-putt is fine. I'm good.'"

Playing partner Jessica Korda had seven birdies in an adventurous 70. She was tied with 2016 winner Lydia Ko, Cristie Kerr, Jane Park, Lizette Salas, Amy Yang and Lauren Stephenson.

Coming off a second-place tie in Phoenix in her return from a left forearm injury, Jessica Korda also



Jin Young Ko, of South Korea, watches her tee shot on the second hole during the first round of the LPGA Tour ANA Inspiration golf tournament at Mission Hills Country Club, Thursday, April 4, 2019, in Rancho Mirage, Calif.

had a double bogey after driving out-of-bounds on the par-4 third and three bogeys.

"A serious roller-coaster," she said. "Glad I got off it on 18. It was a crazy day. I literally had everything you

could possibly have. ... It's really tough, especially if you hit it in the rough. Even around the greens you just don't know what you're going to get."

Lydia Ko matched playing partner Thompson with a

birdie on 18. "You just have to play smart," Lydia Ko said. "If you are in not so good position, try and not get yourself out of it."

The 41-year-old Kerr dropped out of the lead with a bogey on the 17th.

"We've never seen it tucked on the right side that much," Kerr said. "You miss the green, it's just super awkward."

Sei Young Kim made a 10 on No. 18 in a 78. After laying up on the par 5, she twice hit into the water and was penalized a stroke for dropping from the wrong height. Kim instinctively held out her arm and dropped at shoulder-height, but the modernized Rules of Golf that began this year require drops to be knee-height. □

Scammers peddling bogus tax breaks find traction on Facebook

By **AMANDA SEITZ and MAE ANDERSON**
Associated Press

Hundreds of ads on Facebook promised U.S. homeowners that they were eligible for huge state tax breaks if they installed new solar-energy panels. There was just one catch: None of it was true.

The scam ads used photos of nearly every U.S. governor — and sometimes President Donald Trump — to claim that with new, lucrative tax incentives, people might actually make money by installing solar technology on their homes. Facebook users only needed to enter their addresses, email, utility information and phone number to find out more.

Those incentives don't exist.

While the ads didn't aim to bilk people of money directly — and it wasn't possible to buy solar panels through these ads — they led to websites that harvested personal information that could be used to expose respondents to future come-ons, both scammy and legitimate. It's not clear that the data was actually used in such a manner.

Facebook apparently didn't take action until notified by state-government officials who noticed the ads.

The fictitious notices reveal how easily scammers can pelt internet users with misinformation for months, undetected.

They also raise further questions about whether big tech companies such as Facebook are capable of policing misleading ads, especially as the 2020 elections — and the prospect of another onslaught of online misinformation — loom. "This is definitely concerning — definitely, it's misinformation," said Young Mie Kim, a University of Wisconsin-Madison professor who studied 5 million Facebook ads during the 2016 elections. "I keep telling people: We don't have any basis to regulate such a thing."

Experts say websites and apps need to be more



In this screenshot made from a Facebook page, a search result for "solar energy governor" in Facebook's Ad Archive shows ads that were falsely promising social media users that they could "get paid to go solar."

transparent about the ads that run on their platforms. Last year, Facebook launched a searchable database that provides details on political ads it runs, including who bought them and the age and gender of the audience. But it didn't make that information available for other ads until Thursday, when it announced it was expanding the database to include all active ads. Twitter offers its own database of ads and promoted tweets.

Google has an archive for political ads only. The partial approaches allow misleading ads to fester. One problem is the fact that ads can be targeted so narrowly that journalists and watchdog groups often won't see them.

"That allows people to do more dirty tricks," said Ian Vanderwalker, senior counsel at the Brennan Center for Justice's Democracy Program.

In mid-March, some websites linked in the fake solar-energy ads disappeared. After complaints from governors' offices, Facebook inactivated nearly all of the ads and several pages affiliated with them.

"These scammy ads have

no place on Facebook," company spokeswoman Devon Kearns said in a statement.

"We removed these pages and disabled these ad accounts recently and will continue to take action," Facebook says it uses an automated process to review the images, text, targeting and position of ads posted to its site. In some cases, employees review the ads. Users can also give feedback if they believe the ads violate company policies.

Governors' offices were alarmed to see photos of top politicians featured alongside claims such as "you can get paid to go solar."

Helen Kalla, a spokeswoman for Nevada Gov. Steve Sisolak, said she notified Facebook last month after staffers saw them.

Facebook took them down days later, although some continued to re-appear days after that complaint. Facebook also yanked ads featuring images of governors in Texas, Illinois, Colorado, Arizona, South Carolina and other states. But the ads had already been running for some time.

After researching solar-panel options for his two-

story home in Mount Tabor, New Jersey, 37-year-old Chris Fitzpatrick saw the ad last year claiming he might qualify for "free" solar panels because Gov. Phil Murphy planned to release "\$100 million solar incentives." He was skeptical because none of the solar companies he worked with mentioned such incentives, but worried others might not be.

"It's very frustrating because it preys upon innocent people," Fitzpatrick said.

The Associated Press found that some of these ads directed people to solar-energy websites that listed the same business address — a mailbox in Carlsbad, California — that had been

used by a company once under investigation by the Federal Trade Commission, the government's consumer protection agency. In 2012, the FTC sued Jason Akatiff and his company — then called Coleadium, also known as Ads 4 Dough — for running fake news websites that marketed unfounded health benefits of colon cleanse and acai berry products, according to court records.

Akatiff settled the allegations without admitting guilt and agreed to a \$1 million fine. Akatiff changed his company's name to A4D Inc. in 2015, according to California business filings. Akatiff did not respond to messages left with his California business. □

Researchers find more cases of Facebook app data exposure



In this Aug. 21, 2018, file photo, a Facebook start page is shown on a smartphone in Surfside, Fla.

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Security researchers have uncovered more instances of Facebook user data being publicly exposed on the internet, further underscoring its struggles as it deals with a slew of privacy and other problems.

The researchers from the firm UpGuard said in a blog post Wednesday that the data, which included user names and passwords, came from two different Facebook apps that stored their data publicly on Amazon's cloud services. Facebook said the databases have been taken down. But the episode illustrates Facebook's issues with controlling its users' data, especially once it is in the hands of third-party developers.

The databases were from a Mexico-based media company called Cultura Colectiva, which included more than 540 million records — like user comments and likes — and from an app called At the Pool. The researchers said passwords stored for At the Pool were "presumably" for the app and not for Facebook. Still, storing them publicly could put people at risk if they used the same passwords across different accounts. While the At the Pool data collection was not as large as that for Cultura Colectiva, UpGuard said it included plain text passwords for 22,000 users. The app itself shut down in 2014, and UpGuard said it is not known how long the user details were exposed. □

IPWhoa: What to know before joining this year's IPO parade

By **STAN CHOE**
Associated Press

We use Uber to go places, Slack to chat with co-workers and Pinterest to save our favorite ideas. Why not own a piece of these companies that increasingly dominate our daily lives? That's the question for many regular investors as a parade of well-known technology companies are expected to make their stocks available to everyone for purchase this year, not just big pension funds and wealthy people. Lyft was at the head of the line when it had its initial public offering of stock, or IPO, on Friday.

It's tempting to buy stocks of companies whose products or services we see or use so often. But "investing in what you know" doesn't mean buying Uber because you request a ride every other day. It means knowing whether Uber will get enough customers at high-enough prices to become profitable, and at what level.

"Don't jump in with both feet just because you use the product," said Kathleen Smith, principal at Renaissance Capital, which researches IPOs. "You're not going to know the value." Lyft gave investors a lesson in how quickly a company's market value can change. The ride-hailing company's stock surged more than 20% from its IPO price on Friday. But by the first hour of Lyft's second day of trading, the stock had fallen below the IPO



In this March 29, 2019, file photo Lyft co-founders John Zimmer, front third from left, and Logan Green, front third from right, cheer as they as they ring a ceremonial opening bell in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

price of \$72.

A stumble after a first-day pop perhaps should not have been a surprise, given the track record for IPOs. Here are some considerations if you want to join the IPO rush, which may include such companies as Uber and video-conferencing service Zoom.

DO IPOs PERFORM WELL?

Yes and no.

The first day of trading for an IPO is often a great one, when enthusiasm is surging. IPOs have returned an average of 17.9% in their first day of trading, according to data from 1980 to 2016 compiled by Jay Ritter, an IPO specialist at the University of Florida's Warrington College of Business. That would count as great year for an S&P 500 index fund. But IPOs go on to return an average of 21.9% in the three years following their IPO, lagging the market. Some IPOs tend to do bet-

ter over the long term, notably those that bring in more revenue. Since 1980, companies with \$1 billion or more in revenue (in 2015 dollars) have returned an average of 42.7% in the three years following the IPO. That's better than the market.

Smaller companies, meanwhile, have historically had better first-day gains than their bigger IPO rivals but go on to return an average 20.2% over three years. That's well below the market.

WHAT ABOUT THIS CROP OF IPOs? While Lyft, Uber and other upcoming IPOs are big names, many of them lose money. It's a growing trend. Last year, about eight of every 10 companies going public were unprofitable, according to Ritter. That's the highest percentage since 2000, the height of the dot-com bubble.

To be sure, companies going public today tend to be much more seasoned. Since 2008, the median age for an IPO company has been at least 10 years. That's roughly double the age of the typical company going public in 1999 or 2000, at 5 or 6.

With greater age often comes higher revenue. Last year, the typical tech IPO made 10 times more in sales than the median in 2000, even after adjusting for inflation, according to Ritter.

"IPOs are risky, but given the track record of tech over the last 10 years since the recession, they've been the shining stars, they've been where the growth is," said Karyn Cavanaugh, senior markets strategist at Voya Investment Management.

WHAT IF I DON'T LIKE BUYING INDIVIDUAL STOCKS?

One of the biggest trends in investing over the last decade is the move toward index funds. Picking stocks on one's own — or trusting a fund manager to do it — can be risky and expensive. Instead, investors are flocking to index funds that own baskets of many stocks, such as all those in the S&P 500 index, and generally come with low fees.

IPO stocks eventually filter into index funds. Dropbox, for example, had its IPO last year, and its shares are already in more than two dozen ETFs, such as Vanguard's Total Stock Market ETF and the iShares Expanded Tech Sector ETF.

One ETF focuses specifically on recent IPOs. The Renaissance IPO ETF will add Lyft shares later this week, and it tracks an index that holds companies that have had an IPO within the last two years, giving more weight to the bigger ones. Its returns have topped the S&P 500 over the last three years, although it has lagged since its 2013 inception.

Volatility has become part of the reputation for IPOs. "I think IPOs are the Rodney Dangerfield of asset classes," said Renaissance Capital's Smith. "Everyone who wants to feel like they're conservative or smart picks on IPOs, saying 'Don't go there.'"

But she said IPOs today are different from 1999 and 2000, with more rigor around researching them.

"If you want to focus on this and feel you can tolerate the volatility, you can get outsized returns," she said. Even so, market strategists say average investors eager to snap up shares in the latest IPO would do well to skip the frenzied early days of trading and buy later, or wait until the stock makes its way into an index fund.

"If these companies are going to stay around and be good investments, they will be in the future," said Tom Martin, senior portfolio manager with Globalt Investments. "Let the hype go out. Be an investor, not a gambler." □

Target raises its minimum wage to \$13 from \$12



In this Nov. 16, 2018, file photo Target employee Lindsay Walker scans an item as she collects merchandise from shelves to prep them for an online order at a Target store in Edison, N.J.

Associated Press

By **ANNE D'INNOCENZIO**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Target is raising the minimum hourly wage for its workers for the third time in less than two years.

The discounter said Thursday it plans to raise the hourly starting wage to \$13 from \$12 in June.

The Minneapolis-based retailer announced in 2017 a plan to raise its starting hourly wages for workers to \$15 by the end of 2020

and raised its starting hourly wage to \$11. In March 2018, it boosted hourly wages to \$12 after seeing a bigger and better pool of candidates.

With unemployment near rock bottom, retailers are under pressure to find qualified workers. In October, Amazon announced a minimum hourly wage of \$15 for its U.S. employees.

Walmart raised its starting pay to \$11 an hour in early 2018. □

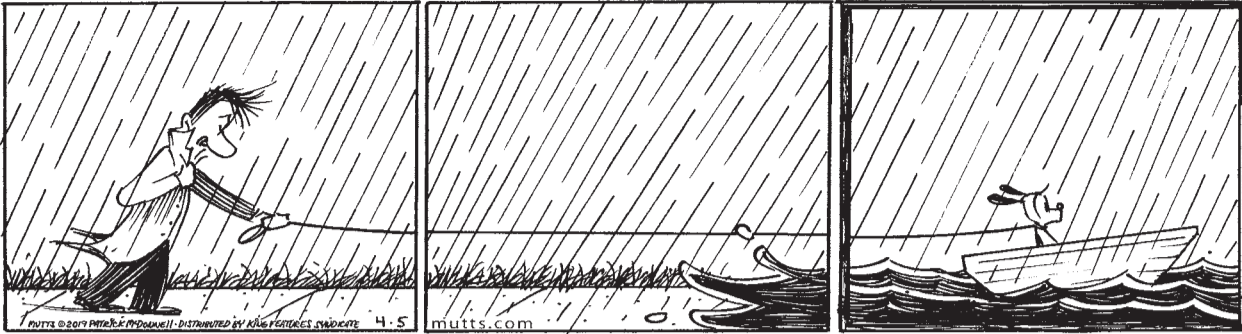
Have you ever wish you travel to Aruba with just a carry-on ?

And leave all your belongings in a container being deliver and pick up right at your resort or home rental !

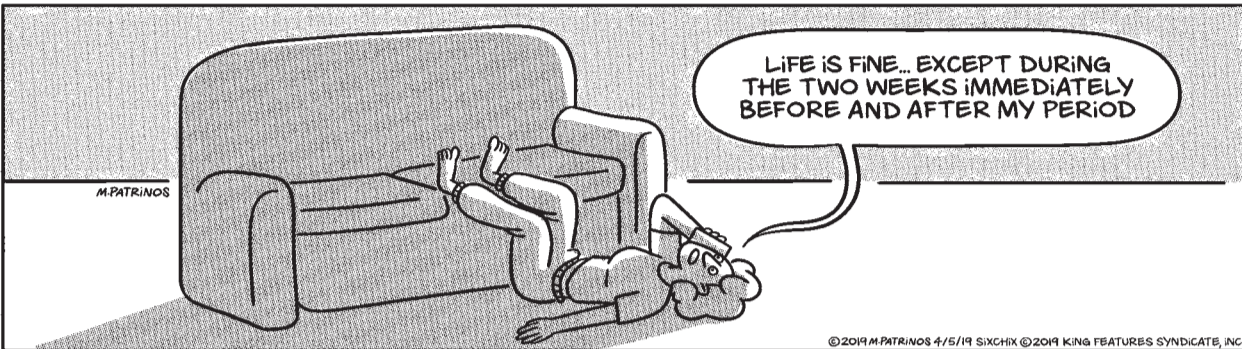
- As low as **\$6.50 a month**
- Pricing include pick-up&delivery
- Saves you time & money, year after year!
- Avoid extra luggages
- Affordable Storage Pricing
- Convenience & Peace of mind

For more information,
Give us a call +297 568.4393
or email us locknrolltimesharestorage@gmail.com.
locknrollarubastorageandtimeshare.simplesite.com
or visit our Facebook page!

Mutts



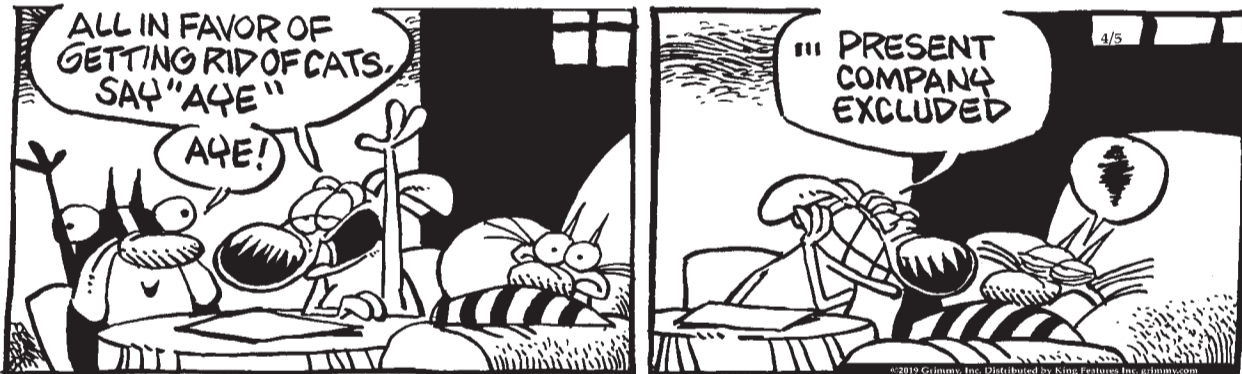
6 Chix



Blondie



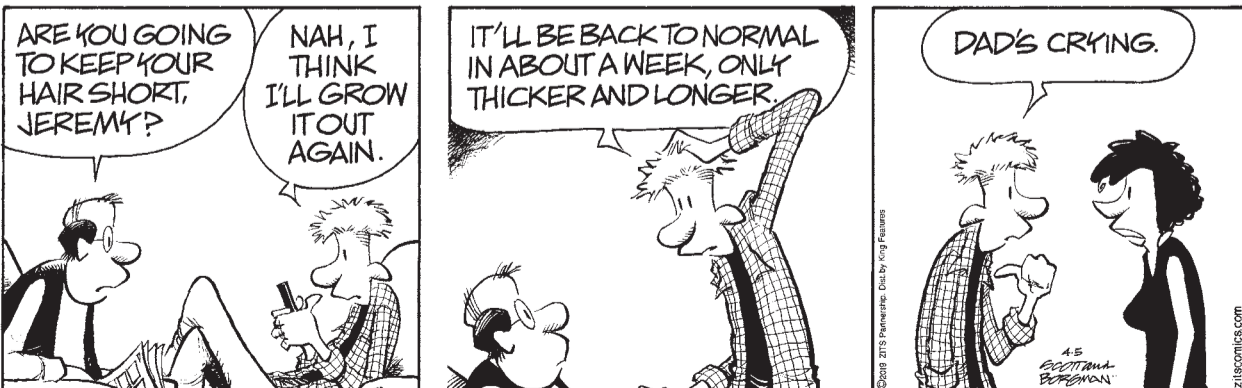
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			1		8			
		5	7		2	4		
	8						3	
1	6						8	9
				7				
4	3						2	1
	4						9	
		1	8		9	2		
			2		6			

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

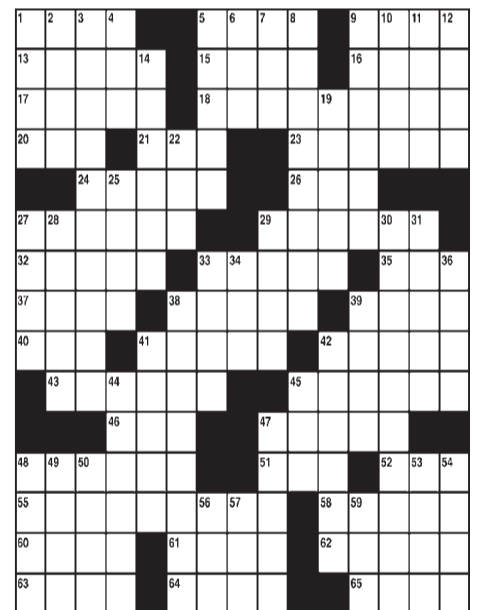
4/05

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer	4	6	9	7	1	5	3	8	2
	1	5	8	2	9	3	6	4	7
	7	2	3	4	8	6	9	1	5
	9	4	6	1	3	2	7	5	8
	2	7	1	6	5	8	4	9	3
	3	8	5	9	4	7	1	2	6
	5	3	4	8	6	1	2	7	9
	8	9	2	3	7	4	5	6	1
	6	1	7	5	2	9	8	3	4

ACROSS

- 1 Word after wine or baker's
5 Tiny particle
9 Part of the foot
13 Sir __ Newton
15 Have a meal
16 Reign
17 One of the five senses
18 Surgery
20 Santa __, CA
21 Massage
23 Adheres
24 Light color
26 "For __ a jolly good fellow..."
27 Sound heard near a pool
29 Kilt pattern
32 Fill with joy
33 19th-century U.S. president
35 Portable bed
37 Pantry stackables
38 __ Ste. Marie
39 Threesome
40 __-tac-toe
41 Glow
42 " __ Were the Days"
43 Become dim
45 Molded
46 Cake ingredient
47 Religion
48 Author Louisa May __
51 This month: abbr.
52 One __ kind; unique thing
55 Mentor
58 Not smashed
60 "Who Wants __ a Millionaire"
61 Houston school
62 Contaminate
63 Remain
64 Collections
65 Passing crazes
- ### DOWN
- 1 Meter maid of song
2 As wise __ owl
3 Classic
4 Actress Dennings
5 Clay brick
6 Money left for the waiter
7 Late bedtime
8 Storekeeper
9 Manet or Monet
10 Destroy
11 Wooden shoe
12 Chickens' moms
14 Shade of red
19 On the ball
22 Word of disgust
25 Breaks a fast
27 Small religious group
28 School uniform skirt pattern
29 Story
30 Fear of heights
31 Clamor
33 Put on weight
34 Baseball score
36 __ the line; obeyed
38 Dog __; kennels
39 "Be __ as it may..."
41 Short one-act plays
42 Need for water
44 Mickey or Andy
45 Gullible fellow
47 Airline prices
48 Play divisions
49 Money, slangily
50 Havana's land
53 __ off; keep at bay
54 __ and crafts
56 Be dishonest
57 Sept.'s follower
59 Clumsy fellow



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

4/5/19

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

J	A	M		M	A	L	T	A		F	L	A	B
O	M	A	R		O	D	I	U	M		R	O	P
N	I	N	E		R	U	M	B	A		O	V	E
D	O	U	B	T		L	E	S	S		N	E	X
				N	E	A	T			S	A	D	
A	S	W	I	R	L		F	L	I	P	S	I	D
S	P	O	O	N		S	L	A	N	T		T	O
W	A	R	N		O	W	I	N	G		P	A	N
A	R	K		F	R	A	N	K		M	I	L	N
N	E	S	T		L	I	N	G		P	I	L	L
				R	U	G				D	U	L	L
M	A	M	A		I	N	T	E	R		L	A	C
A	D	A	M		N	O	O	N	S		G	O	R
T	A	R	P		A	N	G	I	E		E	R	I
E	Y	E	S		L	O	O	M	S		N	E	D

©2019 Tribune Content Agency, LLC
All Rights Reserved.

4/5/19

Classifieds

Halley Time Travel

Marriott Surf Club

Platinum

2 BR Garden View \$15 K

2 BR Ocean View \$16 K

2 BR Ocean Side \$17 K

2 BR Ocean Front \$27 K

3 BR Ocean View \$27 K

House For Sale

Catiri central located

3 BR, 2 Bath, \$250 K

Barba di Jucuman street \$335K

4 BR, 3 bath, swimming pool

Janana

3 BR, 2 bath, 1 apartment

\$330K

many more listings

Ambassador Wing CDM

1 BR wk 12 2nd floor pool View

\$7500

Private Tour to Xander's Birth

Town The Sunrise City Aruba.

and Baby Beach, Historic sites,

HalleyTimeTravelAruba.

& NaturesAdventuresColombia.

Present: Medellin

Nature's best Mountains,

Rivers, Jungle,

Guatape, City Shopping Tour

and much more.

Sp/Eng/Dutch/Papiamentu

speaking Guides.

World Famous Health Service

Divi Links Golf

1 BR wk # 12 & 13

Building B 10

35 weeks remain on each

\$ 9000 each

La Cabana Beach & Casino

2X1 BR WK # 12

3 rd floor Pool/Ocean View

Sunday check in : \$9000 each

La Cabana Beach and Casino

Thursday check in

1 BR and Studio WK # 11, 12, 13

2nd floor garden view

1 BR \$8000, studio \$7000

Divi Village

Building C elevator

2 BR wk 13 \$14 K

3rd floor with 29/8 accelerated

weeks remain

1 BR WK # 14 \$7.5 K

1st floor with 16 weeks remain

La Cabana Beach and Casino

Sunday Check in

1 BR wk 11 & 12 \$18 K both

4th floor pool/ocean view

Friday check in

1 BR WK # 12

4 th floor \$ 9000

Garden/ocean view

CPV

Building A

1 BR wk 13 and 14

\$6000 each

Marriott Ocean Club

Platinum weeks

1 BR Ocean View \$ 11 K

2 BR Ocean View \$ 17 K

2 BR Ocean Front \$ 27 K

2615 destinations points \$21 K

Dutch Village

studio wk #12 & 13

ground floor Deluxe

pool/ocean view \$10,000 each

Aruba Divi Phoenix

2 BR PH WK # 11 & 12

Building 9 7th floor

33 weeks remain \$22K each

Call: 630 1307 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Psychic Jane McDonald

Reunites loved ones removes

negativity calls enemies names

reveals lovers faithfulness.

Solves all problems.

Guaranteed Results call USA

0018178343890

210931

For Sale:

Divi Links Golf

1 BR WK 6 20 wk remaining

\$9000. or BO

Email:

dorseysports@gmail.com

210932

For Sale By Owner:

Casa del Mar

2 Bedroom/2 Bath

7/1308(\$18,000);

7&8/1408(\$18,000/Wk.);

8/1113 (\$17,000);

8/1409(\$17,000);

9/1218(\$15,000);

10/1207(\$15,000);

11&12/1419(\$13,000/Wk.);

13/1509(\$13,000);

14/1308(\$13,000);and,

15/1217(\$10,000).

(Earlier weeks available)

CDMOwner@gmail.com

U.S. (860) 992-3890

210950

**ARUBA'S # ONE
FLEAMARKET**
ROCOCO PLAZA rd 4A
**SUNDAY 7 April &
SATURDAY 27 April**
Start 9 am BIG SALE
Antiques shops & OUTLET
Open Mon-Saturday 9-4
and Fleamarket day 9-1
Call for info : Ph. 741-5640



Like
us on
Facebook
facebook.com/arubatoday/

STOP
Violence Against Women

ARUBA TODAY

Editor
Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Assistant Director
Xiomara Arends

Editor in Chief
Linda Reijnders
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
Liza Koolman (Management assistant)

Editors
Richard Brooks
Jeancarlo Trinidad

Sales
Linda Reijnders
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds
Rachelle Danje
(rachelle.danje@cspnv.com)

Distribution and Collection
accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website
Cristian Soto Garcia
Pilar Flores
Juan Luis Pinto

Columnists
Anthony Croes
Joris Zantvoort
Louedska Maduro
Shanella Pantophlet
Steve Francees
Thais Franken

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
f @arubatoday

HEALTH



Hospital

527 4000

Imsan- San Nicolas

524 8833

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm

San Nicolas

IMSAN 24 Hours

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

Paradera Tel. 588 6638

San Nicolas:

Seroe Preto Tel. 584 4833

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850

Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

CRUISES



April 6

AIDAperla

Celebrity Reflection

April 7

Celebrity Reflection

AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Women in Difficulties
Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118



Groups sue to restrict salmon fishing, help Northwest orcas

By **GENE JOHNSON**

Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Federal officials say they may restrict salmon fishing off the West Coast to help the Pacific Northwest's critically endangered killer whales, but two environmental groups are suing anyway to ensure it happens.

The Center for Biological Diversity, which filed a lawsuit nearly two decades ago to force the U.S. government to list the orcas as endangered, and the Wild Fish Conservancy asked the U.S. District Court in Seattle on Wednesday to order officials to reconsider a 2009 finding that commercial and recreational fisheries did not jeopardize the orcas' survival.

The National Marine Fisheries Service issued a letter early last month indicating that it intends to do so. Julie Teel Simmonds, an attorney with the Center for Biological Diversity, said the point of the lawsuit is to ensure they finish the job with urgency, given the plight of the whales, and to take short-term steps in the meantime to help provide more of the orcas' favored prey, Chinook salmon.

"We have got to figure out how to get them more salmon," she said. "Since 2009 it's become much more crystallized just how critical prey availability is to their reproductive success and survival."

The Endangered Species Act requires the government to certify that any actions it approves won't jeopardize the survival of a listed species. In the 2009 review, experts found that it wasn't clear how a lack of prey affected orcas, but that the fisheries were not likely to contribute to their extinction.



In this Jan. 18, 2014, file photo, a female orca leaps from the water while breaching in Puget Sound west of Seattle, as seen from a federal research vessel that has been tracking the whale.

Since then, however, the population of whales that spend their summers in the waters between Washington state and Canada — known as the Southern Resident killer whales — has fallen from 87 to 75. A calf born in December is the first to have lived past birth since 2015. And scientists have learned much more about how crucial it is for orcas to have enough of the large, fatty Chinook: As they starve, the whales start burning their blubber. Because toxins from water pollution are stored in the blubber, that can harm the whales' reproductive ability, scientists believe.

The orcas typically spend about two-thirds of the year in the open ocean off California and Oregon.

In December, the Center for Biological Diversity told the fisheries service it was intending to sue to force it to reconsider how salmon fishing off the coast affects the orcas.

Last month, Barry Thom, the regional administrator for the fisheries service, said in a letter to the Pacific Fishery Management Council it would do just that.

The council helps establish

ocean-salmon harvests off the West Coast; it reported more than 300,000 Chinook caught last year.

Thom urged the council to consider the effect of salmon fishing on orcas as it sets the 2019 fishing seasons, especially with regard to Chinook runs considered especially important to the orcas in the Lower Co-

lumbia, Sacramento and Klamath rivers.

Michael Milstein, a spokesman for the fisheries service, said Wednesday the agency is reviewing the lawsuit.

"Since the Southern Residents are endangered, the Endangered Species Act requires us to consider the impacts of fisheries on

the whales, and we just recently underscored how we're doing that in a letter to the Pacific Fisheries Management Council," Milstein wrote in an email.

"We are reviewing all the relevant fisheries in the same light."

Teel Simmonds called the fisheries service response "a great sign," but that it wasn't a clear enough step to avert the lawsuit.

She added that while habitat restoration and dam removal might do more in the long run to bring back the salmon, officials must also restrict fishing if that can help the whales now.

The lawsuit is the third the Center for Biological Diversity has filed since last summer to force the government to do more for the orcas. The others seek protections on the orcas' full West Coast habitat and a "whale protection zone" in Puget Sound to shield the whales from boat noise. □

Meow hear this: Study says cats react to sound of their name

By **MALCOLM RITTER**

AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Hey Kitty! Yes, you. A new study suggests household cats can respond to the sound of their own names.

No surprise to you or most cat owners, right? But Japanese scientists said Thursday that they've provided the first experimental evidence that cats can distinguish between words that we people say.

So you're kind of like dogs, whose communication with people has been studied a lot more, and who've been shown to recognize hundreds of words if they're highly trained. Sorry if the comparison offends you, Kitty. Atsuko Saito of Sophia University in Tokyo says there's no evidence cats actually attach meaning to our words, not even their own names. Instead, they've learned that when they hear their names they often get rewards like food or play, or something bad



This Thursday, Oct. 5, 2017 photo shows Shelley, an adopted cat, at its new home in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

like a trip to the vet. And they hear their names a lot. So the sound of it becomes special, even if they don't really understand it refers to their identity.

Saito and colleagues describe the results of their research in the journal Scientific Reports. In four experiments with 16 to 34 animals, each cat heard a recording of its owner's voice, or another person's voice, that slowly recited

a list of four nouns or other cat's names, followed by the cat's own name.

Many cats initially reacted — such as by moving their heads, ears or tails — but gradually lost interest as the words were read. The crucial question was whether they'd respond more to their name.

Sure enough, on average, these cats perked up when they heard their own name. □



Honey Dolls
MASSAGE AND ESCORT SERVICE
Beautiful Latin Girls
Pick-up & Delivery

Serving Men - Couple - Women - All Genders
Bachelor Party Specialized, the best in the Caribbean **Call: 565-9535**

Universal brings 'Cats,' 'Hobbs & Shaw,' more to CinemaCon

By LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Universal Pictures previewed a diverse slate of offerings from "Cats" to "Hobbs & Shaw" Wednesday morning at CinemaCon, the annual trade convention where exhibitors and distributors meet in Las Vegas to discuss the future of the movie theater business.

Footage from Tom Hooper's adaption of the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical with Taylor Swift, Idris Elba, James Corden and Judi Dench, wasn't quite ready to show yet so instead Jennifer Hudson wowed the audience with a performance of "Memory."

They also showed some behind-the-scenes footage and the motion capture technology they're using to create, "The most perfect covering of fur" on all the actors. Hooper also teased that the film will capture a "cats-eyed view of the world." "Cats" sinks into theaters Dec. 20.

CinemaCon favorite Dwayne Johnson got a rousing reception from the audience presenting a new trailer from the "Fast & Furious" spinoff "Hobbs & Shaw" about his and Jason Statham's characters.

"The bottom line is we wanted to make some-



Dwayne Johnson, left, and Jason Statham, cast members in the upcoming film "Fast and Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw," appear during the Universal Pictures presentation at CinemaCon 2019.

Associated Press

thing that was fun," Johnson said. "This is fun."

The movie finds them visiting Hobbs' island home as they try to protect Shaw's sister, played by Vanessa Kirby, from a villain played by Elba.

The action-packed trailer showed, among other death defying stunts, Hobbs pulling down a helicopter with a chain from his truck.

Straight from "planet Brexit," director Danny Boyle promoted "Yesterday," a June release about a struggling musician who wakes up from an accident and

a worldwide electricity outage to discover that no one knows or remembers The Beatles — except him.

"It's like they never existed. It's a hell of an idea," Boyle said. "It was my delight to dive in and direct this lovely film."

"Yesterday" star Himesh Patel even serenaded the audience with an acoustic performance of the title song.

"I definitely didn't think I'd be playing Caesar's Palace," Patel said.

Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg brought out the cast of their latest produc-

tion, "Good Boys," a raunchy, expletive-filled comedy about three sixth grade boys. Rogen joked it is their "Most refined, cultured film to date."

Jacob Tremblay, accompanied by his co-stars Keith Williams and Brady Noon, said, "We apologize for what we're about to do and say." The boys said they're not even allowed to watch the trailer for the R-rated film.

Live animals were part of more than one presentation. Dennis Quaid brought out his personal comfort dog Peaches to preview "A

Dog's Journey," and Kevin Hart and Tiffany Haddish had everyone laughing trying to do their "The Secret Life of Pets 2" presentation while holding an excitable bunny and a shih tzu.

"I've been rehearsing with this rabbit for three hours! All of it out the window," Hart said as the bunny repeatedly tried to climb up his shoulder.

Writer Lena Waithe was joined by director Melina Matsoukas to preview "Queen & Slim," based on a James Frey story, starring Daniel Kaluuya out this November.

"It shows what it's like to be black and in love while the world is burning all around you," Waithe said.

Audiences saw the first trailer for this fall's "Downton Abbey" movie, set in 1927 and revolving around the Crawley family expecting a visit from the King and Queen. Universal also showed a trailer for the romantic comedy "Last Christmas," starring Henry Golding and Emilia Clarke, which will hit theaters this holiday season.

Emma Thompson wrote the script over the course of seven years based on the George Michael song, and director Paul Feig promised that the film will feature a Michael song that "nobody has ever heard." □

Celine Dion announces Courage World Tour, new album in 2019

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Celine Dion is ending her Las Vegas residency soon, but the superstar singer will keep herself busy by releasing new music and embarking on a new world tour later this year.

Dion told a packed venue Wednesday that she will kick off her Courage World Tour in Quebec City, Canada, on Sept. 18, and will make stops in more than 50 cities, including Miami, Los Angeles, Montreal, Chicago and Brooklyn. The 51-year-old Canadian singer said she is expecting to release "Courage," her 12th studio album, in November.



Celine Dion announces Courage World Tour, set to kick-off on September 18, 2019, during a special live event at The Theatre at Ace Hotel on Wednesday, April 3, 2019, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

"It's going to be the Celine that you know," she said of the upcoming album. "Celine at 51. The Celine

that you know. The Celine with producers and writers she's worked with. It's the Celine with new produc-

ers and new songwriters. ... The sound will change a little bit, and music changes. But I will always remain who I am." Dion performed a few songs including "I'm Alive" and the "Titanic" anthem song "My Heart Will Go On" after making the announcement during a special fan event at the Theatre at Ace Hotel in downtown Los Angeles. She started the event with a video of her hitching a ride from Vegas to Los Angeles after her truck broke down.

The Grammy-winning singer said she felt motivated recently to get back on the road and create music for the first time since

the death of her husband-manager René Angélil in 2016. Dion said she feels more "centered, balanced and spiritually connected" these days.

After more than 15 years, Dion will finish her critically acclaimed Vegas residency at Caesars Palace in June. The singer has toured since starting her Vegas show, but the Courage tour will be her first North American tour since her Taking Chances World Tour in 2009.

Dion called Vegas her second home, but she is ready to take on her new venture. She said don't expect to see her typical Vegas show on the upcoming tour. □

New 'Pet Sematary' takes a deeper exploration of grief

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.
Associated Press
LOS ANGELES (AP) — The new "Pet Sematary" has familiar elements of Stephen King's classic 1983 novel and previous film, namely the haunted graveyard where the dead are buried but return as murderous incarnations of their former selves. The remake arrives in theaters 30 years after the

first "Pet Sematary" film found critical and commercial success. But it too has come back different, this time expanding on the supernatural premise to delve deeper into the emotional impact of grief. "It's like Frankenstein, creating them and bring them back, and saying 'It's alive, it's alive,'" said Jason Clarke, who stars as Louis Creed, a physician search-



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows Jason Clarke in a scene from "Pet Sematary." Associated Press

ing for a simpler life with his family in rural Maine. "This story is disturbing and digs deep. It's about life and death, but also about the emotional state that comes with it." Soon after Creed and his wife, two children and their cat move into their new home, the doctor discovers a creepy cemetery in a wooded area nearby. After the family cat is found trampled, Creed tries to make things right for the sake of his daughter's innocence, but quickly realizes the ramifications of burying the dead at the sacred site. "You can't protect your kids from everything," said Amy

Seimetz, who plays Creed's wife, Rachel. Her character is still traumatized after witnessing her older sister's gruesome death as a child, and she wants to protect her children from the idea of death in hopes they'll have regular childhood. That dream ends when a massive truck runs over one of the couple's children. Louis' impulse to undo the tragedy causes a horrific ripple effect. "When something does happen, what do you do?" Seimetz asks. "This film captures the upsetting and melancholy aspect of death. There's the anger side of it. Then there's the denial side of it, then there

is the manic lunacy of what losing somebody so close to you makes you feel. The movie unfolds in the process of grief and loss in an interesting way." Clarke and Seimetz said Jeté Laurence — who plays the couple's daughter Ellie — did a superb job in a pivotal role in the film. "She's very talented," Clarke said. "Her performance really brought this movie together." Laurence, who turned 11 while filming "Pet Sematary," said she hadn't seen any of the previous films, but she quickly learned about the story's premise that death could birth pure evil. □

Caribbean Cinemas.
Palm Beach Plaza Mall
586.0074
caribbeancinemas.com
Caribbean Cinemas Aruba

APRIL 4-10

ZACHARY LEVI | MICHELLE BORTH
SHAZAM!
CXC
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THU 5:00 | 7:50
FRI 5:00 | 7:50 | 10:40
SAT 2:10 | 5:00 | 7:50 | 10:40
SAT 2:10 | 5:00 | 7:50
MON-THU 3:40 | 6:30 | 9:20
SAT-SUN 12:50 | 3:40 | 6:30 | 9:20

ZACH GALIFIANAKIS | ZOE SALDANA
MISSING LINK
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
MON-THU 4:15
SAT-SUN 2:00 | 4:15

JASON CLARKE | AMY SEIMETZ
PET SEMATARY
MON-THU 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35
FRI 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35 | 11:55
SAT 2:35 | 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35 | 11:55
SUN 2:35 | 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35

COLIN FARRELL | MICHAEL KEATON
DUMBO
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-FRI 4:10 | 6:35 | 9:00
SAT-SUN 1:50 | 4:10 | 6:35 | 9:00
SENSORY FRIENDLY PRESENTATION
SATURDAY, APRIL 6 AT 1:00PM

JORGE PABÓN | FAUSTO MATA
LOS DOMIRRI QUENOS 2
SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
MON-THU & SUN 3:45 | 8:30
FRI-SAT 3:45 | 8:30 | 10:45

LUPITA NYONG'O | WINSTON DUKE
Ols
MON-FRI 6:00
SAT-SUN 1:15 | 6:00
MON-FRI 4:35 | 7:05 | 9:35
SAT-SUN 2:05 | 4:35 | 7:05 | 9:35

BRIE LARSON | SAMUEL L. JACKSON
CAPTAIN MARVEL
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-SUN 6:30 | 9:15

BRIANNA DENSKI | JENNIFER GARNER
WONDER PARK
MON-FRI 3:45 | 5:40 | 7:35
SAT-SUN 1:50 | 3:45 | 5:40 | 7:35

TYLER PERRY | CASSI DAVIS
A MADEA FAMILY FUNERAL
MON-SUN 9:30

OPENING APRIL 11: BREAKTHROUGH, LITTLE, VENEZUELA ES UN DESORDEN, HELLBOY

THE MAGIC OF THE MOVIES ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE

Download on the App Store GET IT ON Google Play

Slash's ex-wife auctioning items from marriage to guitarist

Associated Press
LOS ANGELES (AP) — The former wife of Guns N' Roses guitarist Slash is selling off exotic and erotic items from their 14 years of marriage. Julien's Auctions announced Thursday the collection from Slash and Perla Hudson's Beverly Hills estate will be part of next month's Music Icons auction. The items feature Slash's signature look including a black custom-made bowler hat, a signed top hat and his black leather



This photo provided by Julien's Auctions shows a signed top hat that belongs to Guns N' Roses guitarist Slash.

Associated Press
motorcycle jacket with the

printed image of Jimi Hendrix on the back. The auction will feature some of their wedding items including Perla's beaded and sequin top hat wedding veil and their wedding cake topper. There's also a bronze and leather spanking bench. The auction will take place online and at New York's Hard Rock Cafe on May 17 and 18. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Youth Emerging Stronger charity. □

'Island of Sea Women' pits friendship versus tragedy

By JOHN ROGERS
Associated Press

"The Island of Sea Women" (Scribner), by Lisa See. Ten years ago, Lisa See was sitting in a doctor's office leafing through magazines when she came across a brief article about a place she'd never known existed — the Island of Jeju — where the breadwinners were once a hearty band of women who eked out modest livings free-diving into the Pacific Ocean for seafood while husbands stayed home and raised children. It was a discovery that has led to one of the most compelling — and heartstrings-tugging — tales to spring from the mind of the best-selling author of "The Tea Girl From Hummingbird Lane" and nearly a dozen other novels. Like many of the Chinese American author's earlier books, it is set in Asia with ties to the United States, although the location this time is Korea, not China.

And like See's "Shanghai Girls" and "Dreams of Joy," the story takes readers on a journey spanning gen-



This cover image released by Scribner shows "The Island of Sea Women," a novel by Lisa See.

Associated Press

erations — in this case 1938 to 2008 — as moments of cherished friendship, unspeakable tragedy and, in the end, a plot twist worthy of Raymond Chandler unfold. Early on, readers are introduced to Mi-ja and Young-sook, precocious, 7-year-old best friends despite island elders' misgivings that Mi-ja's father was a collaborator with the hated Japanese, who controlled the island from 1910 until the end of World War II. The pair grow up to become "haenyeo" — Jeju's real-life elite women divers who hone their skills over years to match an innate ability to hold their breaths longer than just about anybody as they deep dive repeatedly into frigid water to grab fish.

Out of the water, the pair grow up to happily compete for everything from husbands to bearing children. That is until Jeju's historic 4.3 Uprising, a real-life event (taking its name from the 1948 starting date of April 3) that is arguably one of modern history's least-known massacres. It result-

ed in the deaths of some 30,000 people in 1948-49 as South Korea violently put down a rebellion over what government would control the island's future.

Mi Ja and Young-sook become innocents caught up in the slaughter. Their friendship, strained by war, death and competing family ties, breaks apart as they struggle on against the island's real-life historical backdrop.

By 2008, Young-sook is an old woman but still a diver. Indeed, she's become part of a dwindling group of haenyeo in their 70s and 80s now revered as national treasures on an island that has become both a tourist attraction and a World Heritage Site.

As such she is a bit of a celebrity, much to her annoyance and her general dislike of tourists.

That's until a day a tourist family from the United States — one that somehow seems strangely familiar — arrives to reveal things she never knew about herself, her family or her best friend. □

Artist who created paint-by-numbers pictures dies

By JOHN SEEWER
Associated Press

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) — An artist who created the first paint-by-numbers pictures and helped turn the kits into an American sensation during the 1950s has died. Dan Robbins, whose works were dismissed by some critics but later celebrated by the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History, died Monday in Sylvania, Ohio, said his son, Larry Robbins. He was 93.

He had been in good health until a series of falls in recent months, his son said. Robbins was working as a package designer for the Palmer Paint Company in Detroit when he came up with the idea for paint-by-numbers in the late 1940s. He said his inspiration came from Leonardo de Vinci.

"I remembered hearing that Leonardo used numbered background pat-



This image provided by Larry Robbins shows a numbered outline of a self portrait of Dan Robbins. Family members say Robbins, an artist who created the first paint-by-numbers pictures and helped turn the kits into an American sensation during the 1950s has died.

Associated Press

terns for his students and apprentices, and I decided to try something like that," Robbins said in 2004.

He showed his first attempt — an abstract still life — to his boss, Max Klein, who

promptly told Robbins he hated it. But Klein saw potential with the overall concept and told Robbins to come up with something people would want to paint. The first versions were of landscapes, and then he branched out to horses, puppies and kittens.

"I did the first 30 or 35 subjects myself, then I started farming them out to other artists," said Robbins, who mainly stuck to landscapes. While the Craft Master paint-by-numbers kits weren't embraced initially, sales quickly took off and peaked at 20 million in 1955. Within a few years, though, the market was flooded, sales dropped and Klein sold the company.

Together, Robbins helped create slices of Americana that are still collected and are found framed in homes across the nation.

"We like to think dad was one of the most exhibited

artists in the world," said Larry Robbins. "He enjoyed hearing from everyday people. He had a whole box of fan letters."

He noted his father's accomplishments are still on display at the Detroit Historical Museum, "right down from Henry Ford," his son said.

Robbins, who spent much of his life in the Detroit area, was modest about his work and didn't get too bothered by those who mocked the paintings.

Critics came to view the paint-by-numbers kits as a metaphor for a commercialized, cookie-cutter culture and fretted that they far outnumbered the original works of art hanging in American homes, said William Lawrence Bird Jr., curator of the 2001 exhibition at the National Museum of American History.

Some within the museum questioned the idea of

celebrating the paint-by-numbers craze and its impact on art, at least until the crowds showed up, Bird said. "He would say, 'I didn't think of this, Leonardo did,'" Bird said. "He was amused that people were collecting them."

When his paint-by-numbers days were over, Robbins continued to work in product development, including designing Happy Meal toys for McDonald's, Bird said.

Robbins, who wrote a book, "Whatever Happened to Paint-by-Numbers," said at the exhibition's April 2001 opening in Washington that his creation survived despite the critics.

"I never claim that painting by number is art," he said. "But it is the experience of art, and it brings that experience to the individual who would normally not pick up a brush, not dip it in paint. That's what it does." □

Yabba dabba don't: California town rejects Flintstones house

By JANIE HAR

Associated Press

HILLSBOROUGH, Calif. (AP)

— Towering dinosaurs stand among fanciful mushrooms in the sloping backyard. A life-sized Fred Flintstone welcomes visitors near the front door. And by the driveway on the lawn is a giant “Yabba Dabba Do” sign in orange, purple and red.

The latest battle in the war between government rules and property rights is playing out in a posh San Francisco suburb, where a retired publishing mogul has installed an elaborate homage to “The Flintstones” family. The bold, bulbous house is surrounded by Stone Age sculptures inspired by the 1960s cartoon, along with aliens and other oddities.

The controversy has sparked international media coverage and an online petition signed by thousands to preserve the attention-grabbing property, visible from a nearby highway.

The 2,730-square-foot (254-square-meter) house itself is not at stake, but the town of Hillsborough says Florence Fang's multimillion-dollar property is a public nuisance and an eyesore.

Officials filed a lawsuit in state court last month to make her remove the unpermitted garden installations. Fang does not live in the house but uses it to entertain.

An attorney for the 84-year-



This Monday, April 1, 2019 photo, shows an aerial view of the Flintstone House in Hillsborough, Calif. Associated Press

old says snobby officials want to squelch Fang's constitutional right to enjoy her yard, and promises a vigorous fight.

“Mrs. Fang has made people smile, she's giving them joy. What's not to love about Dino, who acts like a dog?” said Angela Alioto, a former San Francisco supervisor. “What is wrong with these people?”

The oddly shaped house, currently painted red and purple, was designed by architect William Nicholson and built in 1976. Fang, a prominent philanthropist who once published the San Francisco Examiner, bought the property in June 2017 for \$2.8 million.

The whimsical front yard has statues of Barney and

Betty Rubble, along with Fred and Wilma. A sign reads “No Dino Allowed” and features a purple cartoon dinosaur. Colorful mushroom sculptures dot the front and back. A steep staircase, deemed unsafe by town officials, leads to a garden of giant metal prehistoric animals.

Mark Hudak, an attorney for Hillsborough, says the town prides itself on its rural, woodsy feel, and rules are in place “so neighbors don't have to look at your version of what you would like to have, and you don't have to look at theirs.”

The case is simple, he said. “Whether she is building a project with amusing cartoon characters or Rodin statues or anything else,

she still has to go through the process like everyone else,” he said.

Government has the right to enforce public safety codes, and to ensure property owners don't impinge on the rights of other property owners, said Tim Iglesias, a property professor at the University of San Francisco School of Law. Private property has been regulated in the United States since colonial times, he noted.

But Iglesias says it's unusual for a homeowner to ignore three work-stop orders issued by the city, as the March 13 complaint states Fang did. She also ignored an administrative order to remove the installations by Dec. 5, 2018, although she

paid a \$200 fine.

“This is a situation where a very wealthy, sophisticated homeowner has basically thumbed her nose at the city consistently,” he said. “If they let her get away, then all the other wealthy people in Hillsborough can say, ‘Hey, I can do whatever I want with my property. Who cares about the planning department?’”

At a media tour of the property this week, Alioto said Fang will respond to the lawsuit with a counterclaim, but she declined to discuss specifics. She said Fang's constitutional rights to free speech and religion were violated. Fang was not made available for an interview.

“They want everything removed. They want the dinosaurs removed,” Alioto said. “They wanted her to put a tree in front of the dinosaur, so you couldn't see the dinosaur.”

David Levine, who specializes in civil litigation and remedies at the University of California Hastings College of the Law, said property owners flout permit regulations all the time. Usually, they pay a fine and correct any safety issues.

And as for which party might prevail in court?

“You have to figure out: Who's the twit? They're going to rule against the one that's being a twit,” he said. “Is the twit the homeowner that ignored all the orders or the twits saying, ‘We don't like Wilma and Betty?’” □



In this photo taken Monday, April 1, 2019, figurines of Barney and Betty Rubble stand outside the Flintstone House in Hillsborough, Calif.

Associated Press



In this photo taken Monday, April 1, 2019, is the kitchen inside the Flintstone House in Hillsborough, Calif.

Associated Press